

ALUMNI CONNECTION

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2010

Futures Inspired

Rennie Silva '03 tells what moves him to

Volunteer

A photograph showing three people riding an elephant. On the left, a man in a dark uniform and cap sits on the elephant. In the middle, a man in a blue polo shirt and shorts sits on the elephant. On the right, a man in a blue polo shirt and a headwrap sits on the elephant, holding a rope. The background shows green trees and a bright sky.

PLUS:

Student Clubs & Activities

Turn Compassion Into Action

HCC Staff Give a

Day of Service



HCC President William F. Messner

As a lifelong volunteer and current member of a number of boards, including the United Way of Hampden County, the Holyoke Library, Historic Holyoke at Wistariahurst Museum, the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Inc., and Massachusetts Colleges Online, I know first hand the benefits that accrue to our communities when we give of ourselves. Particularly at a time when state and federal funds

are scarce, volunteers are making it possible for service organizations and civic institutions to continue the necessary work of serving the community.

Each year, through participation with student clubs and courses that integrate community service, HCC students also make a positive difference in the lives of our neighbors. That they continue the habit of volunteering, long after graduation, is underscored in this issue's article on alumnus Rennie Silva '03.

I am proud to inform you that HCC will begin offering classes in downtown Holyoke when the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center opens this September in the new Holyoke Multimodal Transportation Center on Maple Street. A joint undertaking of HCC and our partners in the Juntos Collaborative, the Picknelly Center will offer literacy programs, GED preparation and testing, ABE and ESOL classes, tutoring and mentoring, career counseling, workforce development classes, transition to college programs, and credit college classes taught by HCC instructors. HCC will also offer admission services to facilitate the college enrollment process. Housed in the upper floors of a transit hub, the center will provide access to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

William F. Messner

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

Editor:

JoAnne L. Rome

Contributors:

Joanna Brown, Joyce Desorcy '88, Gloria Lomax '75, Kathleen Moore, and JoAnne L. Rome

Design/Art Direction:

William Murphy

Design:

Peter Hutchins, Litmus Designs

Class Notes:

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

Letters:

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

Class Notes/Change of Address:

Please submit the reply form on page 15, or call the Alumni Office (413) 552-2253.

2009-2010 Alumni Council:

President

Gloria G. Lomax '75

First Vice President

Gertrude E. Monson '97

Secretary

Marsha Ryan '70

Alumni Council Members:

Joanna Brown, ex officio

Angela M. Belisle, R.N. '77

Laura L. Brennan '79

Carol Bright '75

Dawn R. Bryden '89

Carrie Buckner '77

Cleveland Burton '86

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Elizabeth A. Murphy '74

James Sheehan '74

Rhonda Soto '97

Nancy Spagnoli '83

Karen Thompson-Brown '04

Vandelyn T. Wright '83

Reunion Planned for May 20, 2011

A reunion for Management, Marketing Management, and Bridge to Business alumni from 1972 to present is in the works! Anne Potter, who will retire at the end of the spring 2011 semester, invites those who would like to help plan—or want to be notified when plans are made—to contact her at apotter@hcc.edu or (413) 552-2347.

Awards Night Fosters Meaningful Connection

The 2010 Awards Night reception gave scholarship donors and appreciative recipients the chance to meet and learn a little about each other. Above, Alan Taupier '55 met the 2010 Alan Taupier Alumni Scholarship recipient, Susan Chicoine '11 and her husband, William. Susan, a student in the nursing program, also helps her husband raise grass-fed beef on the Chicoine Family farm in Easthampton. Find their farm on www.farmfresh.org



Anne Potter

Outstanding Administrator Recognized

Maureen Conroy, HCC's director of the Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services, received an Outstanding Administrator Award from the Federation for Children with Special Needs. Conroy was lauded by the Federation for her dedication to providing fully inclusive educational opportunities, such as the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (ICE) initiative, which enables students with disabilities to take college courses. Conroy helped secure grant support for the program and then worked to establish partnerships with local school districts. Thanks to her efforts, area high school students with disabilities can participate in campus life while acquiring the skills they need to secure fulfilling careers.



Maureen Conroy

Care to Comment?

In October 2010, HCC will undergo a comprehensive evaluation by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Those who wish to address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution may submit written, signed comments to the address below. Comments must be received by October 27, 2010, and include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments. Comments will not be treated as confidential.

New England Association
of Schools and Colleges
209 Burlington Road
Bedford, MA 01730-1433
E-mail: cihe@neasc.org.



Olver at HCC

Congressman John Olver visited HCC on May 7 for a presentation on the impact of H.R. 676 (the US National Health Care Act), and changes in federal financial aid, particularly Pell grants. Olver, who represents the 1st Congressional district in Massachusetts, co-sponsored the bill to expand access to healthcare, and has sought an increase in Pell grants. He responded to numerous questions from HCC students.

Pinning Marks Entrance Into Profession

Graduates from the Practical Nurse program gathered to celebrate their accomplishment at a pinning ceremony in December 2009. PN student introduced guest speaker Donna Bys, RN, RN MSN, The rigorous program prepares students to pass the National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nursing (NCLEX PN) test to become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).



Steve Turre

Jazz Festival Draws Artists, Enthusiasts

Jazz innovator, trombonist Steve Turre, appeared at HCC's 13th Annual Jazz Festival on April 2-3. Turre, whose music draws on jazz, Afro-Cuban, and Brazilian sources, has performed with Ray Charles, Art Blakey, and Tito Puente. He was accompanied by the Amherst Jazz Orchestra conducted by David Sporny. Organized by Professor Robert Ferrier and sponsored by the HCC Music Department and Gerry's Music Shop in South Hadley, the festival included a weekend of master classes and free, open-to-the-public performances by participating high school jazz bands and combos, the HCC Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Vocal Ensemble, Jazz Improvisation Combo, and Jazz Festival faculty.



Dear alumni,

I am excited to about HCC's newest educational initiative, an adult and family literacy center in downtown Holyoke. As Bill Messner noted in his letter, it will be located on the upper floors of a renovated fire station across from Veterans Park, in the new Holyoke Multimodal Transit Center, one of only a few of its kind in the United States.

The Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center, named to honor a generous gift by the Picknelly family, is a joint project of the Juntos Collaborative, a network of organizations, including HCC, which serve the Holyoke community. The center will provide those who did not complete high school the opportunity to earn their general equivalency diploma (GED) and take entry level college courses. The center will also offer admissions, academic, and career counseling, and a number of related services.

This month, the Holyoke Community College Foundation and collaborating agencies in Holyoke are launching the "Embrace Literacy Campaign" to raise an additional \$100,000 to support the ongoing operations of this vital center.

Yes, Holyoke Community College still needs alumni unrestricted, equipment and scholarship support. Please consider sustaining your support to HCC and make an additional contribution to our Embrace Literacy Campaign.

Whether you currently live in Holyoke, grew up in Holyoke and now live somewhere else, or simply believe in Holyoke Community College's mission of meeting the educational needs of persons from every walk of life, I hope that you will choose to be a part of our Embrace Literacy Campaign.

This is the time when your participation could make an enormous difference in many people's lives. Please turn to page 13 to complete the reply form and send your check today, or go to www.hcc.edu/ donate to contribute securely with your credit card.

Sincerely,

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



Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

P.S. We are enhancing our electronic communication with alumni. Please visit www.hcc.edu/alumni, to see our new alumni web pages and use the online form to update your name, address, phones, email address, and employment and education information. If you use Facebook, please become a fan of Holyoke Community College's Facebook page!

HCC Alumni E-Publication Initiative Reply Form

Yes, I want to help HCC conserve natural resources and direct college funds where they are most needed. Please sign me up to receive email notification when the *Alumni Connection* may be viewed online.

Name: _____ E-mail address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please return to: HCC Alumni Office, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040 by February 28, 2011



Rennie Silva with students at the high school where he taught. Noting the lack of extracurricular activities for students, Silva formed a weekend art club.

From Massachusetts to Cambodia,
Rennie Silva '03 is

Building Bridges of Understanding

It's a lesson that years of volunteering seem to have ingrained in Rennie Silva's spirit: sometimes you have to give it away to get it.

For Silva, '03, the "it" is a sense of belonging, a connection to something larger. The Northampton native has been quietly pursuing it since his teen years, when he volunteered at a homeless shelter.

"Hunger and homelessness were problems I could grasp at that point, but I didn't really feel like I was a part of the solution until I started volunteering at the Survival Center," says Silva, now a graduate student in public policy at the University of Maryland. "There, I met

people who were committed to making things better, and you realize how lucky you are to be able to help."

At HCC, Silva was a volunteer for MassPIRG, coordinating a campus-wide youth vote campaign on HCC's campus leading up to the 2002 elections. "This experience was my personal introduction to politics and ultimately led me to continue my education in political science and public policy," said Silva, who went on to serve as a campaign volunteer for Tim Kaine during his successful

bid for Governor of Virginia, and a Congressional Intern in the office of Representative Richard Neal.

The interest he developed in public service and international affairs during his time at HCC led him to apply to the Peace Corps. "I wanted a reason to feel optimistic about my country and the world and a way to become more involved in both," he said. "I felt that my serving would contribute to my country by demonstrating the United States' willingness to engage the world through understanding and compassion."

In 2007, he began a nearly two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Bavel, Cambodia. Learning basic Khmer (the language) was the easy part. Earning his keep was the challenge.

"Lots of organizations send volunteers to Cambodia and they give them stipends that are 10 to 20 times more than the locals make in a year. The Peace Corps doesn't do that. You are not a conduit for wealth that arrives, provides, and departs," says Silva, who taught English and worked on development projects. "It's about transferring skills and building human relationships. Once you strip away the role that money plays in defining you as an American, it's easier to create a cross-cultural understanding."

Which is not to say there weren't a few miscues. When Silva first opened the door to his Cambodian classroom, he was greeted by a mound of cow dung—a gift of the room's most recent inhabitants. He shrugs it off.

"It's an agrarian culture, so there are cows around," says Silva. "By the time I left, we had made it into a reading room."

Since returning from Cambodia, Silva has been working on his master's in public policy at the University of Maryland. A recent recipient of the Anthony Eugenio Alumni Scholarship (given to alumni who have remained active members of the Alumni Association, and are continuing their education), his connection to HCC is one he treasures.

"The Eugenio scholarship has helped advance my graduate education, and means a lot to me personally," he said. "But more broadly speaking, I could never forget HCC and what it did for me. I am eternally grateful to the faculty and staff who supported me at HCC, and to the institution itself."

Despite his busy life, Silva makes time to educate others about Cambodia and encourage service in the Peace Corps, presenting slide shows and speaking

about his experience. In August 2010, he was a guest lecturer at the Foreign Service Institute, the training arm of the US State Department, where he spoke to diplomats preparing to depart to US embassies in Cambodia and Phnom Penh.

It's easy to imagine them carrying his words and spirit with them, and perhaps also finding that giving it away brings it back many times over.



Silva on a trip to a rarely visited ancient temple. The scarf he is wearing is known as a "kroma," and has multiple uses in Cambodia. A cherished gift, it was given to him by his host family.

Can a day make a difference?

Yes!



For the volunteers and service organizations participating in HCC's first-ever Day of Service, the answer was a resounding "Plenty."

Sponsored by the HCC Professional Development Committee, the April 21 volunteer effort sent close to 100 HCC faculty and staff out into the Greater Springfield and Holyoke areas, where they helped 11 service organizations attack their never-ending "to-do" lists. They whacked weeds, cleaned transit vans, picked up trash, painted

playground equipment, cleaned classrooms, and planted gardens.

"The idea was for this to be true service," said HCC Professional Development Committee Chairperson Melinda Hawkes, who helped organize the event. "We weren't there to do our regular jobs. We were there to learn about these organizations by helping them out."

The 2010 Day of Service was a new take on the college's Professional Development Day, an annual event that allows faculty and staff to expand their perspectives on learning through cross-departmental trainings and workshops. This year, they turned their attention outward.

"A lot of the faculty and staff do not live in Holyoke or Springfield, so this gave us a chance to get out into that community and see where our students live," said Hawkes, a computer information systems professor who spent her day vacuuming, washing, and polishing the transportation vans for Girls, Inc., a Holyoke-based mentoring program for girls ages 5 to 18. "Afterwards, I got a chance to find out what the organization is doing to help young women become more computer literate."

Based on the success of this year's Day of Service, Hawkes plans to incorporate a similar component into next year's Professional Development Day. That sounds perfect to Janna Chapdelaine, Girls, Inc.'s development director.

"It was great to have the HCC volunteers here," she said. "We could do our work, knowing they would get this work done. That meant a lot."

In addition to Girls, Inc., HCC crews volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club, Chicopee Village, Habitat for Humanity in Springfield, Holyoke Community College Archives, New Leadership Charter School, Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center, the Trustees of Reservations trail along the Dinosaur Footprints park in Holyoke, Services for New Americans in West Springfield, Western Mass Eldercare, and Wistariahurst Museum.





HCC volunteers in front of a building destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Students and staff spent a week in New Orleans helping residents rebuild.

Turning Compassion Into Action

Student Activities at HCC encompasses more than talent shows and Halloween parties. Every year, HCC students respond to the needs of the community, the nation, and the world.

“Our role is to help students mold their passion and energy into events that reflect their values and capture their spirit. You can see that reflected in the diversity of clubs and student-run organizations,” says HCC Student Activities Coordinator Vivian Ostrowski.

In 2007, Ostrowski led a team of 40 HCC students, faculty, and staff to New Orleans where they helped residents rebuild what Hurricane Katrina had destroyed. For a week, they hauled trash, banged nails, distributed water, and listened to residents talk about a city that refused to give up.

The next year, students organized a weeklong campaign aimed at raising awareness and funds to combat hunger and homelessness. In addition to collecting clothes, toiletries, and raising more than \$2,000 for local

homeless organizations, the effort gave two HCC students, recently homeless, a chance to share their experiences with the larger community.

“One of those students was very instrumental in making this happen,” said Ostrowski. “She wanted to make sure that we were not patronizing the homeless. She was proud of what she had accomplished.”

In March of 2010, students came together to sponsor “Rise Up for Haiti,” an event that raised \$4,700 for two organizations that are helping Haiti recover from the recent devastating earthquake. Launched during the Wednesday Student Activity period, the event featured spoken word performances by Northampton poet Lynelle Moise, and Springfield poet Magdalena Gomez, as well as musical performances and information

about Haitian culture. Despite the tragedy in Haiti, it was a decidedly upbeat affair.

“The student who approached me to do this was very concerned about how Haiti was seen after the earthquake,” said Ostrowski. “So often, when something terrible happens in an impoverished country, we focus only on the poverty, not the culture. This student wanted us to focus on the vibrant history and culture of Haiti, so that people would appreciate the Haitian people, not pity them.”

While Ostrowski plans a fresh slate of trips, speakers, and activities for each new academic year, she always allows for those that unfold organically. “I never know what local or world event will inspire them to take action. We’ve never been wanting for options.”

Fall 2010 Events

Celebrate the Arts!

The HCC Humanities, Fine, and Performing Arts Division schedule of student and faculty recitals, guest lectures, performances, art shows, and the Annual Jazz Festival is posted on www.hcc.edu.

Friday, October 15

2010 Information Security Awareness Conference

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Kittredge Business Center

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month! In today's highly networked systems environment, "thinking security" should be a natural reflex for all information technology users. You don't have to be a computer expert to learn to protect your information, yourself, your family, and your business or organization online at the 2010 Information Security Awareness Conference at HCC. For more information go to www.hcc.edu/isac or contact gkingsley@hcc.edu.

Wednesday, October 20

Alumni Speed Networking

6-7 p.m. Kittredge Center - Peoples Bank Conference Room

Speed networking is a fun, quick way to let you spread the word about who you are or what you do with many people in a short amount of time. Our Spring 2010 Speed Networking Event was a great success! Bring your business cards or flyers, or just come to meet other alumni. Registrations encouraged so that we can provide adequate refreshments. Call (413) 552-2253 or register online at www.hcc.edu (follow Alumni link from home page). Free to HCC alumni and their guests. Refreshments provided.

Wednesday, October 27

HCC Alumni Transfer/Graduate School and Career Event

4:30-6:30 p.m. Kittredge Center 312

Are you considering continuing your education? Changing careers? This is the event for you! Speak with transfer/graduate admissions staff from area colleges and universities and learn about the free resources in our HCC Career Center. Attending colleges include: AIC, Bay Path College, Elms College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, Springfield College, UMASS, Westfield, and WNEC. Coordinator of Transfer Affairs Mark Broadbent will give a talk "Transfer Basics" at 5 p.m. and again at 5:30 p.m. Richard Powers, Career Services Counselor, and Deborah Levenson, New Directions Coordinator, will be available to speak with alumni. Registration encouraged. Please call (413) 552-2253 or register online at www.hcc.edu (follow alumni link).

Holyoke Community College
& Amherst Cinema

**THE
TOURNÉES
FESTIVAL**

October 5-26, 2010

FIVE FRENCH FILMS

October 5, 2 pm

Blame it on Fidel

Leslie Phillips Theater at HCC

October 12, 7:30 pm

The Grocer's Son

Amherst Cinema

October 19, 2 pm

The Class

Leslie Phillips Theater at HCC

October 19, 7:30 pm

The Secret of the Grain

Amherst Cinema

October 26, 7:30 pm

Beaches of Agnes

Amherst Cinema

Free admission at HCC, regular ticket prices at Amherst Cinema*

*HCC students, faculty and staff admitted free with ID at Amherst Cinema
www.amherstcinema.org

Tuesday, Nov 16

HCC Alumni Employee Appreciation Luncheon.

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Campus Center (2nd floor G building)

Each fall, the HCC Alumni Office invites our 100+ alumni employees to share a hot turkey lunch together. HCC alumni are welcome to attend this luncheon at a cost of \$8.00 per person (cash or charge). Registrations required. Please call (413) 552-2253 by Thursday, November 11 at 5 p.m..

February 1, 2011

Scholarship applications available!

The Anthony Eugenio Scholarship for Alumni Volunteers is a \$500 award for HCC graduates (2010 or earlier) who are active in the HCC Alumni Association and who are enrolled in bachelor's, master's, or doctoral programs. Please call (413) 552-2253 to request an application. Scholarship applications for current HCC students are available online at www.hcc.edu.

Friday, May 20, 2011

Retail Management, Marketing Management, and Bridge to Business Alumni Reunion

Alumni from 1972 to present who were in Retail Management, Marketing Management, and Bridge to Business: If you would like to be involved in reunion planning or would like to be contacted when plans are made, contact Anne Potter at apotter@hcc.edu or (413) 552-2347.

CLASS NOTEBOOK

1961



Madelyn Simon Allen was one of three local recipients of the Unsung Heroine Award given by the Springfield Women's Commission

in March 2010. Allen has been with Boat People SOS-Springfield since 2007, serving as program development coordinator. Well known in the Vietnamese community, Allen lived in Saigon from 1967-1970. She has taught English and Citizenship, serves on the Bilingual Election Committee for the Springfield Election Commission, and is a charter member of the Western Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Consortium. Before joining BPSOS Allen was Legislative Aide and District Office Director to State Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera (D-MA), Parish Social Ministry Coordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Springfield, and Assistant Executive Director at the Springfield Vietnamese-American Civic Association.

1966



Gerald D. Healy was inspired to create a tartan "that would identify all that is good about Holyoke." The

Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee chose the colors: red, white and blue from the American flag; green, white, and gold from the Irish flag; green and white from HCC; purple and white from Holyoke High School; green and gold

from Holyoke Catholic High School; and black and gold from Dean Vocational High School. Designed by Ralf L. Hartwell, Jr., the tartan was sent to Peter M. Wilson, who wove the first batch of material. In 2003, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee voted unanimously to accept the tartan as the "Holyoke St. Patrick's Tartan." It is registered in the International Tartan Index in Scotland, and Healy is regarded as "Father of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Tartan," which is worn with great pride by many Holyokers.

1972

Dr. William F. Hartford received his BA, MA, and PhD degrees in American History from UMASS Amherst. He writes test questions for Pierson Evaluation for teacher certification examinations in the areas of History and Social Science.



Victor Kamont hosts the weekly radio show "Happy Hour" on kpcradio.com, during which he interviews a diverse group of guests about what they are passionate

about, what makes them happy, and how they stay optimistic. Kamont enjoys the gift of knowledge that Maharaji gave to him 36 years ago, and says that it brings the utmost joy to his life. Kamont has been on the dean's list at Pierce College for two semesters. He also has an internship at Malibu Times Newspaper and will be a work study student at the Getty Museum in the fall.

1974

Janet (Chamberlain) Jedlicka Fisher is Coordinator/Instructor of Early Childhood Education at Western Piedmont

Community College, Morganton, NC. She received her BS in 1984 from Johnson State College, and her MA in 1990 from Appalachian State University, where in 2009 she earned an education specialist degree in adult higher education. After moving to NC in 1985, she worked briefly at Head Start and then found the Family, Infant, and Preschool Program where she began working with children with exceptionalities and their families. For the past 14 years she has taught adults at two community colleges. Fisher says that it is gratifying to be impacting so many lives as a community college faculty member.

1975



Jason D. Kornetsky was an elite runner after graduating from HCC. He remembers when runners were given a numbered popsicle stick when they crossed the finish line to tell them the order in which they finished. Since he had a computer science degree from HCC, he secured a job at Honeywell and eventually volunteered to start timing runners using PCs in the 1990s. Today, his company—which specializes in timing triathalons in the Southwest, including the 9,000-participant El Tour de Tucson—gives every runner, triathlete or cyclist a computer chip attached by velcro and neoprene straps to an ankle. For more information, visit www.ceptiming.com.

1976

Daniel Chlastawa is the owner of Alice's Restaurant in Tucson, AZ, a classic American diner with decor that includes Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola memorabilia.

People really love their "killer omelettes," which are made to order. Everything they serve is home-made.

1992

Craig R. Kirouac has been promoted to sergeant in the Northampton Police Department. Kirouac joined the Department in 1992 after serving for five years as a special police officer in Amherst. Since 2007, he has specialized in arson and child sexual assault investigations. He received an AS in criminal justice from Holyoke Community College and a degree in criminal justice from Western New England College.

1994

Cheryl L. Shattuck is branch manager of the downtown Ludlow office of Citizens Bank. Through her efforts, Citizens Bank donated a \$10,000 grant to fund the "Next Steps" class, a program that enhanced educational opportunities at the HCC Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center.

1995

Lily Heredia is a banker at the Cooley St. branch of Citizens Bank in Springfield. She helps customers get their financial lives in order and establish savings accounts, IRAs, and certificates of deposit, apply for mortgages, refinancing, home equity line of credit, and loans. She invites alumni to visit or call her at (413) 782-2733. She has applied to attend the joint Elms-HCC baccalaureate program in fall 2010.

1997

1997 Jessica (Faller) Berger, RN, RYT, is delighted to announce the release of her first stress reduction CD, "Sublime Relaxations, Volume I" through CD Baby. Jessica has presented curricula for The Big Y, Smith College Summer Science Program, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, the Department of Social Services and Yoga Centers from Massachusetts to New York. The author

of numerous articles on health and fitness, she teaches Health and Wellness at the Hartsbrook School. She is living happily ever after with her better half and best friend, Dan. Berger would love to hear from her nursing school chums, particularly Gilda Mendez. Contact her at www.jessicaberger.com.

1998

David L. Thatcher worked in broadcasting for nearly 50 years before coming to HCC to study art 15 years ago. He transferred to Hartford Art School and graduated in 2000. For nine years he kept a studio in Springfield, which he recently moved to Westfield to be closer to home. He describes his art as surrealist color acrylic paintings as well as realistic portraits in charcoal. Glad that he got the courage to bring his hobby to the next level, he offers classes and encourages people to engage their interests, even if they're middle age or older. Alumni can reach him at: (413) 519-0803 or at <http://thatcherspaintings.tripod.com/>.

1999



James M. Leahy has been named one of the leading business people under the age of 40 by Business West magazine.

Leahy is a pharmaceutical sales representative at Alcon Laboratories, a company that manufactures vision products. In addition to his daily responsibilities at Alcon, he trains new employees and sits on a human-resources diversity board. Elected to the Holyoke City Council at age 24, he is now serving his sixth term. He has volunteered for the Holyoke YMCA,

Holyoke Children's Museum, Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, and Holyoke Boys Club, and oversaw the 2010 St. Patrick's Day Parade and road race. He is married to Attorney Eileen Leahy and has three children, ages 9, 8, and 4.

Jeremy R. Zimowski, manager of the McDonald's restaurant on Northampton Street in Holyoke was honored with the Ray Kroc Award by the McDonald Corporation in March 2010. The award, named after McDonald's corporate founder Ray Kroc, is an annual performance award that recognizes the top one percent of McDonald's restaurant managers in the country.

2006

Thomas W. Clark, Jr., is a patrol officer in the Amherst Police Department. Clark earned his BA in Criminal Justice from Westfield State College and graduated from the State Police Municipal Police Academy in 2009. Clark had previously been a police officer for the Ware, Monson, and Whately Police Departments.

Phil Straub is a radiographic technologist at BayState Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield by day. By night (7pm-midnight, Monday through Friday), he hosts Philville and The Chill Side of the River on WRSI 93.9 The River. Phil is married to Marcia Bergeron, 2010.

2007

Roshonda DeGraffenreid was a presenter at the February 2010 National Science Foundation Broadening Participation in Computing Community Meeting and Forum in Los Angeles, California. She spoke on the Advancing Community College Students: Leveraging & Learning from National Initiatives panel. DeGraffenreid transferred to Mount Holyoke College after graduating from HCC in 2007.

continues on next page

CLASS NOTEBOOK

continued from previous page

2008

Daniel E. Drexler is a communication major at Westfield State College, with a concentration in journalism (both internet and "old school newspapers"), and writes for the campus newspaper, *The Voice*. He is also studying multi-media and has an internship at the Republican newspaper, where Tom Shea is his mentor.

2010

Marcia Bergeron, a graduate of HCC's New Directions Program, is currently enrolled in the Commonwealth Honors College at UMASS, majoring in Sociology. She sings in a rock band, Treefort, which

is about to release their second CD, *Talking to the Dogs*. She is married to Phil Straub, 2006.

Denis Soto Hernandez contacted Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown, to say that he is living in Puerto Rico and would like to become involved with the Alumni Association. If any alumni living in Puerto Rico would like to get together some time, email jbrown@hcc.edu with a subject of "HCC in Puerto Rico" and she will connect you with Denis.

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

Normand D. LaFlamme '56
Edwin G. Ross '62
Robert Edward Ouimet '71
Gerald L. Benard '72
Eileen "Chris" Donoghue '73
Rita C. Perron '73
Dympna M. Connelly '75
Marilyn M. Bekech '81
Candice A. Martin '87
Jacqueline M. Roy '93
Wanda K. Kurlej '00
Kristen Laura (Harris) Ferraro '02
Jennifer Doris Kolodziej
LaPalme '06
Rosalie S. O'Connor,
retired staff member

Class Notes/Change of Information



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

Name: _____

Former name: _____

Class year: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Email Address: _____

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

Please return this form to:
Alumni Office, HCC, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040,
fax to (413) 552-2479, or email to jbrown@hcc.edu
with subject line of "HCC Notes" by Dec. 15, 2010.



I am currently the co-director for administration of Casa Latina, Inc. in Florence, MA, the only Latino-led and Latino-focused organization in Hampshire County.

I came to my present position from my own experience in participating in programs at Casa Latina. When I graduated from HCC in 1999, I had three children: one newborn, one child with a learning delay, and one a child with cerebral palsy. I felt overwhelmed, and the outreach worker from Casa Latina invited me to come to a program about the history of women who are considered heroines in Puerto Rico. Casa Latino also offered transportation and child care so that I could attend the program. I loved the program, and it was not long after when I was asked to join the board, the first time I had served in a board capacity. I was then asked to be co-president of the board, and I began participating as a volunteer in every program offered by Casa Latina.

Casa Latina offers educational programs and referral services on such topics as domestic violence, disabilities, community

resources, and gardening, as well as social programs, games, and music. United Way and Casa Latina work together to develop the annual Three Kings Day celebration. We also work in collaboration with Families with Power, a group of parents who are people of color or low income, to develop leadership skills and support children to complete high school and go to college.

Each December, during an annual "Reencuentro," a multi-day event involving 250 people, community members participate in activities designed to review the past year and plan and commit to a new vision for the organization in the year ahead.

In addition to my work with Casa Latina, I have volunteered on the board of Family Empowerment (part of the Association for Community Living) and as an active member of Families with Power. I am grateful to Holyoke Community College for the opportunity to gain an education. We have continued the HCC tradition in my family. Recently, my niece graduated from HCC and will major in biology at Smith College with a full scholarship.



Eneida Garcia '99

I hope that my two sons will attend HCC after completing high school.

– Luz Eneida Garcia '99

Editor Note: For more information on Casa Latina, please visit www.casalatinainc.org.

We Love Letters!

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



**Please direct letters to:
Joanna Brown
HCC Alumni Office
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke MA 01040
FAX: (413) 552-2479
Email: jbrown@hcc.edu**

ALUMNI IN ACTION



Lomax Awarded Emeritus Status

Gloria G. Lomax '75 was one of two retired faculty members, along with Carole D'Amato, awarded Professor Emeritus status at the 2010 Years of Service Luncheon on April 30. Director of Alumni Relations, Joanna Brown, gave a tribute to Lomax, which mentioned her extraordinary service to HCC as a professor and president of the HCC Alumni Association, as well as her dedicated service to individuals and families within surrounding communities. Among her many accomplishments, Lomax developed a curriculum "Parenting from a Distance" for incarcerated women with children, and set up the first preschool within a prison in MA, to enable mothers to role-play with their children and receive parenting and language learning instruction.



Nursing supper

Nearly 100 alumni, nursing students, and current and retired faculty members attended the 2010 Nursing Supper on May 6. Pictured (front left to right) are: Marjorie Bessette, Chair of the Practical Nursing Program, and alumni Lisa Gagnon '07, Jenafer Kulaski '07, and Cynthia Jabry '07. Back row: Chuck Andrus '07.

GED Grads Celebrate

GED Chief Examiner Theresa Eccles '91 (pictured center) was on hand to award diplomas to the more than 50 people who successfully completed their GED exams this spring through HCC's Community Services Division. GED graduates Zuley Ramos (left) and Michael Sanchez (right), were among the graduates celebrating their accomplishments. HCC has the largest GED testing center in the state, with 1,300 tests administered annually. Eccles reports that among those tested, 62 percent go on to college, and approximately 41 percent of the college-bound apply at HCC.



Distinguished Alumni Receive Awards

Kay Althoff '82 and Danny Eaton '74 were recipients of the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award, presented at the 33rd Annual Alumni Award Dinner at the Log Cabin on June 8. Althoff, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, served for 21 years as the director of the Frances Perkins Scholars program for non-traditional age women students at Mount Holyoke, during which time the program doubled in size and gained national recognition. Eaton, a graduate of Amherst College, is founder and producing artistic director of the Majestic Theater in West Springfield. Since its founding in 1992, the Majestic has grown from 300 to 4,600 season ticket holders, and has entertained more than 500,000 theater lovers at performances and summer musical concerts.

Dear Alumni,

Last spring, the Holyoke Community College Alumni Association added another "first" to our list of achievements. We are the first community college in the United States to survey alumni donors as to why they donate to their community college.

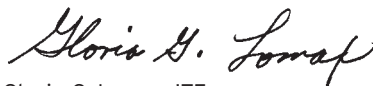
The results of our survey were astounding! 92% of respondents who graduated from another college or university give as much or more to HCC than to the other college or university from which they graduated.

Moreover, the generosity of our alumni donors is not dependent on how often they visit the campus. Eighty-three percent of the respondents had not visited the campus in the past year and only 6% visit the campus once a month or more frequently. As one donor said, "I was too busy to participate in student clubs while I was a student, and I am too busy now to attend alumni events, but I can write a check to the HCC Foundation."

I have the privilege of seeing what your dollars do for our students—providing microscopes and high tech equipment for classrooms and laboratories, as well as scholarships for deserving students. This spring we were able to award 30 scholarships of \$250-\$500. Next year, I hope that we will be able to increase the number of students who receive these awards.

The mission of this college has never been more important than it is today. Therefore, we ask that you donate online at www.hcc.edu/donate or that you send your most generous contribution today.

Sincerely,



Gloria G. Lomax '75

President, Holyoke Community College Alumni Association



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

The HCC Foundation 2010 Giving report is now online. To view it, please visit www.hcc.edu and then click on "Alumni and Friends"

2011 HCC Annual Fund (closes June 30, 2011)

Enclosed is my contribution of:

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

I/we wish to contribute to the following fund:

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

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

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

Home/Cell telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Position/Title: _____

- My/our check is enclosed, payable to **HCC Foundation Inc.**, (2011 fund drive ends June 30, 2011)
 My/our gift will be matched by: _____ (please submit matching gift form)

To charge a gift, please call (413) 552-2546 or visit our secure donation page at hcc.edu/donate

I wish to give anonymously. Please do not publish my name in the 2011 Annual Giving Report

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

ALUMNI CONNECTION

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101



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HCC Trustees James Lavelle and Joseph Wright, and Chief Information Officer Cindy Greene, during a tour of the still-under-construction Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center across from Veterans Park in Holyoke. The center will open in September 2010.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Futures Inspired