

ALUMNI CONNECTION

SPRING 2013

The Arts at HCC

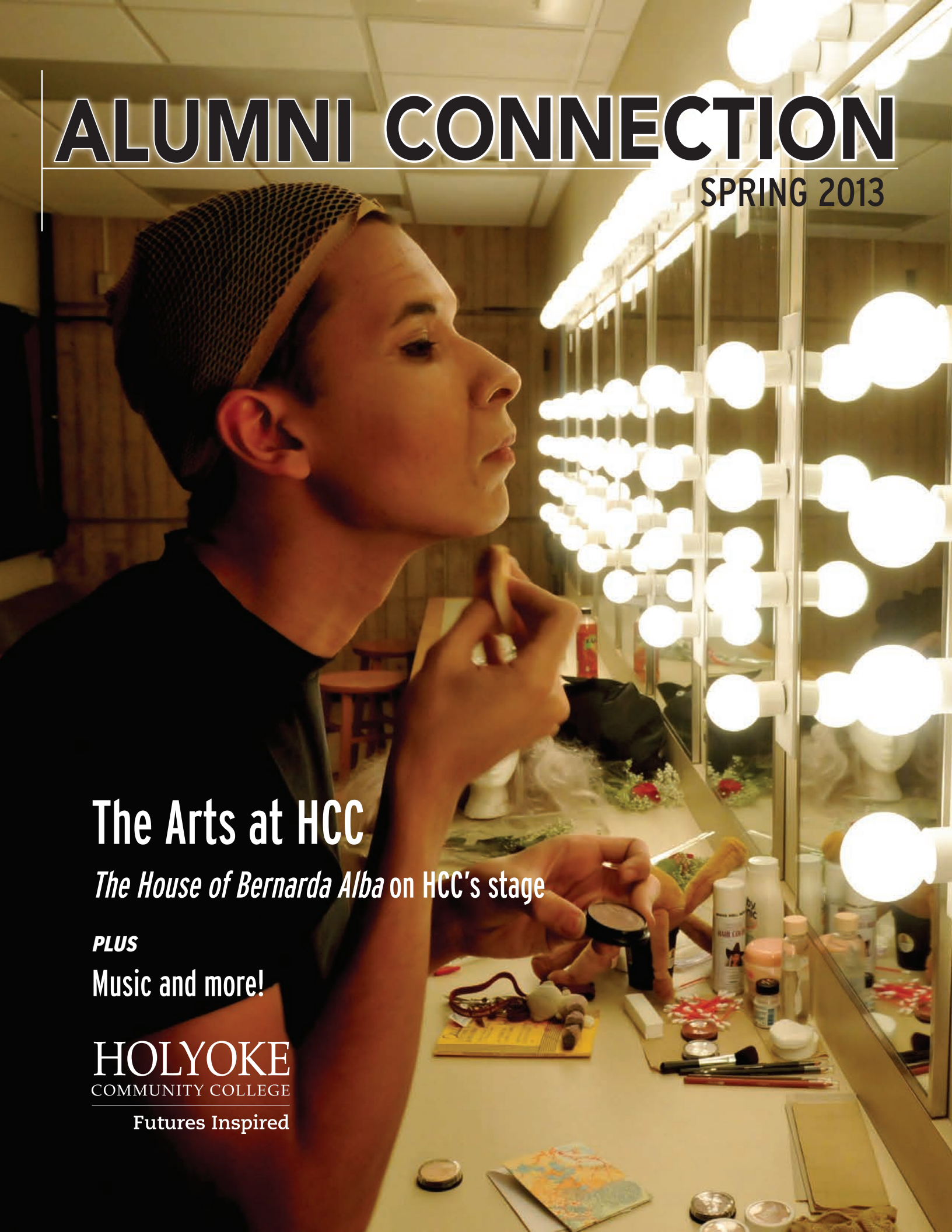
The House of Bernarda Alba on HCC's stage

PLUS

Music and more!

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Futures Inspired



BILL'S BULLETIN



HCC President William F. Messner

Welcome to the Spring 2013 *Alumni Connection*! This issue highlights the outstanding faculty and graduates of HCC's media, fine and performing arts programs.

Widely portrayed as engines of workforce development, community colleges are often overlooked as an option for those seeking a professional arts education. That's a shame, because our community colleges offer an exceptional education and preparation for transfer or entry into satisfying arts careers.

HCC distinguishes itself both in the array of resources available to students and the caliber of its programs. Our Music Department is among just a handful of two-year programs accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The college's Media Arts Center, home to photography, animation, sound, film and video programs, is unique in that it provides access to classes and state-of-the-art resources typically available only to advanced students majoring in the discipline.

Not all who take courses in the arts or music pursue majors in those areas, but students in other majors have found that media, fine and performing arts classes develop the ability to communicate, collaborate and innovate – skills that are in demand in every occupation. Indeed, graduates of our Theater Arts program have gone on to careers in the arts at Yale University as well as careers in finance.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention HCC's Building Healthy Communities campaign. It's no secret that there is great demand for qualified employees in the fields of health care, biotechnology and life sciences. To help meet this need and provide greater access to career pathways, HCC has purchased a building adjacent to campus to house expanded, state-of-the-art nursing and radiologic technology programs. The space vacated on campus will be home to a new Center for Life Sciences. You'll be hearing more about this in the next issue of the *Alumni Connection*. In the meantime, I ask for your support in helping to make this campaign a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Messner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William F. Messner

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Times story captures alum's dying lesson

In her last days, Martha Keochareon, '93, offered nursing students from HCC an extraordinary gift – the experience of visiting with her as she lay dying of pancreatic cancer. Unselfishly, Keochareon, herself a nurse and a graduate of HCC's nursing program, decided to let her end-of-life experience become a teachable moment. In a front page story on Jan. 10, 2013, *The New York Times* chronicled those final lessons in a moving tribute in words and photographs. Keochareon died Dec. 29, but her spirit and gift live on. You can read the *Times* story in the News section of the HCC web site at www.hcc.edu

HCC Nursing Education Specialist Kelly Keane, RN, right, visits with Keochareon.



Record season for Lady Cougars

The HCC women's soccer team capped one of the most successful seasons in team history with a fifth place showing at the 2012 NJCAAS National Championships in November. The team advanced to the Elite Eight by winning the Division III New England Championship. The Lady Cougars' 19 season wins set an all-time program record, passing the old mark of 15 set in 2009. They also scored a record 105 goals and set records for consecutive wins (11) and shutouts (14).

The Lady Cougars hold their trophy after winning the New England Championship.

Cameras capture campus creatures

The Wildlife Society Club went on an electronic hunting expedition last fall, made possible by a \$2,300 gift from the HCC Foundation. The club purchased eight motion-sensor, infrared cameras and set them up in the 35-acre refuge and trail system on the west side of campus. Among the quarry: fisher cat, black bear, gray fox and coyote. Students collected the digital photos and have posted them in a gallery on the club's web site: sites.google.com/site/hccwildlifesociety/gallery. "Everyone has their theories about what's back there," said club advisor and biology teacher Andrew Stein. "We wanted to gather some concrete evidence."

Wildlife Society Club member Naomi Haber sets up a camera.



AROUND CAMPUS



Alchemy inspires mobile project

The idea of transformation is an important theme in the everyday lives of the students at The Care Center, a Holyoke program for teen mothers preparing to take their GED tests. Transformation was also the inspiration behind a large mobile designed and constructed by Care Center students under the direction of artist, former HCC student and Smith College grad Cassandra Holden. In September, students began designing the mobile and listening to lectures on art and inspiration from HCC faculty. The mobile, called "Alchemy," constructed from bamboo and painted aluminum flashing, was installed in December above the main stairwell in the HCC Kittredge Center, where it will remain for the next few years.

Artist Cassandra Holden, center, Care Center students and staff stand beneath their mobile project.

Dean Dad unmasked

While not exactly a caped crusader, Matt Reed is definitely a sort of crusader. His mission – improve higher education. Since 2004, Reed, HCC's vice president of Academic Affairs, has been writing a blog called "Confessions of a Community College Dean" under the pseudonym "Dean Dad." In November, in advance of the release of his new book, he finally revealed his true identity to readers in the online magazine, "Inside Higher Ed." Reed's book, *Confessions of a Community College Administrator*, published by Jossey-Bass, was released in January. "With my own name out there," Reed wrote in his Nov. 13 column, "I hope to be able to participate more fully in the public conversation about higher education and its future."

Matt Reed, the blogger formerly known as "Dean Dad."



Education advocate Jonathan Kozol visits HCC

Jonathan Kozol has built a career writing books that call attention to the desperate conditions suffered by children in poor, inner-city schools. In September, Kozol visited HCC to talk about his latest, *Fire in the Ashes: 25 Years Among the Poorest Children in America*. He started off by asking the audience in the Leslie Philips Theater how many had ever taught. "I always feel safer when I'm in a room with teachers," he said, smiling at all the hands in the air. "They're often scapegoats, but they're still my heroes."

Author Jonathan Kozol signs books after his September talk at HCC.

Dear HCC alumni,

write to tell you about our Building Healthy Communities Campaign, a bold and strategic effort that will have a positive, enduring impact in western Massachusetts.

In November 2012, Holyoke Community College signed an agreement to purchase the former Grynn & Barrett photography studios at 404 Jarvis Ave. This beautiful building will become the new Center for Health Sciences. It will contain state-of-the-art nursing simulation and radiography practice rooms, classrooms, seminar rooms and study areas for our nursing and radiologic technology programs. In addition, its location will allow the nursing program to partner with area agencies to provide community health education and screenings.

The former location of the nursing program in HCC's Marieb building will be completely renovated to provide HCC students with the latest in science laboratories and a bio-tech quality "clean room" to help students prepare for many careers in the healthcare and science fields.

Now, I ask all HCC alumni (nursing and rad tech majors, of course, as well as others) to participate in this most important campaign by returning the form below with your alumni donation to the Building Healthy Communities fund. Together, we can make the vision for this new building a reality.

Joanna Brown

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

P.S. I have enjoyed attending many wonderful theater and music performances by HCC students and faculty on campus. I have also had the great pleasure of hearing poet Magdelana Gomez, sax great Fred Ho, legendary vibraphonist and marimba player Dave Samuels, vocalist Karrin Allyson, and author Augusten Burroughs (Running with Scissors). If you missed these HCC events, please sign up for our monthly alumni e-newsletter by going to our online community at <https://foundationalumni.hcc.edu> and



Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

creating a user name and password, or return the form on page 21 with your email address.

2013 HCC Annual Fund (closes June 30, 2013)

Enclosed is my/our contribution of:

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

I/we wish to contribute to the following fund: **Building Healthy Communities Campaign**

Where the need is greatest

Scholarship fund

Equipment for classrooms & labs

Other: _____

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

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

Home/Cell telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Position/Title: _____

I would be willing to talk to a student (in person or by phone) about my career field

My/our check is enclosed, payable to **HCC Foundation Inc.**, (2013 fund drive ends June 30, 2013)

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 2013 Annual Giving Report

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

Putting





on the

Show

Collaboration brings *The House of Bernarda Alba* to HCC's stage.

By Chris Yurko

No director is an island. From concept to execution, all theatrical productions require collaboration. As much as the director may have the initial vision, a successful show depends on contributions from many people, and not just those who appear on stage or work backstage.

"You never do theater by yourself," says HCC professor Patricia Sandoval. "It's impossible."

Sandoval knows what she's talking about. A 1984 graduate of HCC, Sandoval has been involved in theater at the school for 30 years as both a student and a teacher.

Last fall, she directed "The House of Bernarda Alba," a play by the famous Spanish writer Federico Garcia Lorca and one that involved more than the usual share of collaborators for an HCC play. Set in a small Spanish village in the 1930s, the play was a grand period piece and costume drama that featured a large cast and crew, an elaborate set, live music and dance.

"There were a lot of moving parts to this production," says HCC theater professor Timothy Cochran, who served as the play's production manager. "Pat is very good at bringing everyone together as a team and trusting everyone's contribution."



The Guitarist

The impulse that inspired “The House of Bernarda Alba” came from classical guitarist and teacher Phillip de Fremery. Sandoval and de Fremery, who studied with the famous Spanish guitarist Andrés Segovia, had worked together in 2003 on Garcia Lorca’s “Blood Wedding.” During that show, Fremery performed a continuous live soundtrack from the stage. “I was only too willing to do another Lorca piece,” says Sandoval, “if he was going to do the guitar, of course.”

Sandoval considers de Fremery’s contribution so significant his name appeared second only to hers on promotional posters. “I trust Phil’s skill so much I don’t give him one note,” says Sandoval. “I just say, here’s where you’re going to be, and I just let him go, he’s so good.”

For this play, however, where de Fremery would be was, initially, far from clear. “The House of Bernarda Alba”

follows the tragic tale of a tyrannical widow and her five daughters, who are all in love with the same man. They live in a patriarchal society where women are bound by the expectations of community, family and religion. There are no male characters in the play, and Sandoval didn’t want to spoil Lorca’s intent by putting de Fremery on stage, even in the background as a silent member of the village community, as he was in “Blood Wedding.”

Cochran and scene designer Christopher Hoyt agreed. After battling around some ideas, Hoyt offered to build a platform for de Fremery among the theater seats.

Music And Dance

As she studied the script, Sandoval looked for more places to incorporate music. One scene included a Gregorian chant. “I thought, rather than speak those words, it’s going to be sung, like in church,” she recalls. In another, Bernarda’s daughters hear village men working and singing in the fields.

“I could have found something and recorded it, but it’s so much better to have it live,” she says. “That’s why we do live theater.”

She consulted with Professor Ellen Cogen, HCC’s chorale director, to find male singers for those offstage roles. Cogen rehearsed the singers and suggested that one, student Matt O’Leary, perform during intermission. “And that’s the way theater is,” says Sandoval. “It would be grand and verbose to think I had all these great ideas, but it doesn’t happen that way.”

“The ideas that happen in the studio and in the meeting room really shape how a production is put together, so it’s not one person’s idea. I think that’s the fun of it.”

Besides music, Sandoval likes her shows to include movement or dance. In “Blood Wedding,” she enlisted a flamenco dancer from the community as choreographer. This

time, student Leigh-Ellen Figueroa volunteered her services as both choreography and costume designer. Figueroa, a former dancer who also teaches costume design at the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School in South Hadley, designed the costumes for “Bernarda Alba” and choreographed a Spanish dance the actors performed in the play’s opening scene. “That wasn’t in the script,” says Sandoval.

Ready, Set

“Bernarda Alba” featured Hoyt’s debut at HCC as a scene and lighting designer. He was hired full time last summer to teach Stage Craft, Introduction to Theater, and Theater History, but his background is in theater design and technology.

He begins his design process by reading the play, letting feelings, thoughts, and concepts emerge. Then he scours the Internet and art books for images and finally meets with the director.

"The script is dark and heavy, and I felt closed in," says Hoyt, "like Catholicism and tradition locked the characters in positions they couldn't get out of. After meetings with Pat, I discovered it was more about desire and passion and the willingness to follow tradition, even though your heart wants to be free."

Desire and opportunity became the key themes for the set. Architecturally, he wanted it to look like a Spanish courtyard with arches representing the portals through which the characters could choose to come or go.

"The ideas that happen in the studio and in the meeting room really shape how a production is put together," says Hoyt, "so it's not one person's idea. I think that's the fun of it."

Hoyt and the students in his Stagecraft class constructed the set with assistance from Steve Bailey, '77, HCC's theater technician, and Bailey's work-study students. Bailey, an integral member of the production team, maintains the lighting, sound and projection booth in the back of the Leslie Phillips Theater, as well as the scene shop on the first floor of the Fine & Performing Arts building, where the sets and props are prepared. Bailey studied theater at HCC before earning a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Hofstra University. He returned to HCC about 12 years ago after working as a professional theater technician. "Other people are the idea people," he says. "I'm the guy who puts wheels on it and makes it run down the road."

Got Art?

No matter who directs (Sandoval and Cochran alternate semesters) the play becomes a project for the graphic design classes taught by Professor Beverly Wodicka (See accompanying story). After hearing a discussion about the play, each student creates a design for a promotional poster. Three are selected: one for the poster itself, one for the program and another for tickets. All of them are displayed in the lobby outside the theater during performances.



ERIKA LEIGH, SHALAWNA JOHNSON, DOROTHY PAM, KRISKA FONDAKOWSKI, ADREAN MEJIAS, MOLLY O'BRIEN AND REBECCA BERLINER, SOME OF THE CAST OF THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA, PAGES 4-5; TEACHER AND GUITARIST PHILLIP DE FREMERY, OPPOSITE; PROFESSOR PATRICIA SANDOVAL, '84, TOP; STAGE DESIGNER AND TEACHER CHRISTOPHER HOYT, MIDDLE; PROFESSOR TIMOTHY COCHRAN AND HOYT, BOTTOM.



"We've done that every semester," says Sandoval. "It gives her students an opportunity to work with a real-life customer, and it's fabulous for us."

In the past, Sandoval has also recruited faculty from HCC's talented art department (on the second floor of the Fine & Performing Arts building) to make special props, such as Professor Frank Cresotti's art-deco painting for "Hot L. Baltimore" in 2001. In 2000, Professor Felice Caivano and some of her students built an eight-foot statue for the play "Botanica."

"I do think theater pulls this whole building together," says Sandoval. "I like to get everybody involved, so they have a stake in it and feel a part of it."

Educational Theater

Sandoval calls HCC productions "educational theater." The main goal is teaching students all aspects of putting on a show, but there are also academic applications. Each semester, the chosen play is required reading in all theater classes, from Acting to Theater History to Stagecraft. Students read the play, talk about it and then go see the show.

Hoyt makes his students write critiques. "I think one of the most important things we do is train students how to watch, how to witness art and how to witness theater and how to look at it with a critical eye," he says. "I think that's how we develop patrons of the arts. If we can engage them in how the art is made, the chance of them watching it in the future is greater."

Sandoval used the fall 2011 production of "From Up Here" (directed by Cochran) in a Learning Community course she taught with psychology professor Jack Mino – "Smells Like Teen Spirit" – that combined adolescent psychology and acting. Students practiced scenes in class, then watched

STEVE BAILEY, '77, HCC'S THEATER TECHNICIAN, TOP LEFT; REBECCA BERLINER (FOREGROUND), ADRIAN MEJIAS, TOP RIGHT.


the play. "And then they get it," says Sandoval. "They have some ownership of it, a deeper understanding."

"The House of Bernarda Alba" was also read in the Spanish classes of professors Monica Torregrosa and Anne Barry as well as English classes of Professor Pat Kennedy, who, incidentally, helped make costumes. "She always incorporates what we're doing and has her students come," says Sandoval.

“You never do theater by yourself. It's impossible.”

On With The Show

During performances, Sandoval takes a seat in the audience. Students run the show. In the control booth, Bailey monitors the students who work the sound board and lights. Through a wireless headset, the stage manager, always a student, calls the cues from the booth to the assistant stage manager backstage. From these vantage points, they get a real sense of what's it like to be a theater professional.

"The beautiful part about theater is that it is so multifaceted it can be used for anything," says Sandoval. "You have to work collaboratively with people, so it's wonderful for all types of careers. Nobody works in a vacuum." 

In Harmony

By Janice Beetle

In concerts and classrooms, HCC Alums help carry on a rich musical tradition

Play “Split Screens,” the debut CD by Jesse Cafiero, '05, and you'll hear haunting, ethereal music that pairs well with lyrics that tell of lost love.

Cafiero's smooth voice and layers of vocals, guitar, bass and keyboard will arrest you in their ability to evoke grief, love and a sense of a higher power on this album that served to renew the artist's spirit.

Also featuring former HCC student Rory O'Connor on drums and percussion, “Split Screens” hit the street in December 2012 (splitscreens.bandcamp.com). It marked the end of a relationship for the San Francisco-based Cafiero, but it also sparked a beginning in his music career – a point where he turned from playing jazz written by others to the indie tunes he pens himself.

It gave him a boost of confidence – like the boost he first found in his days studying music at Holyoke Community College.

Cafiero had been a musician since he was a child. He spent one semester at Hampshire College but turned to HCC in 2001 after hearing about the great music program. At HCC, he played in the jazz band and composed his first jazz instrumental.

“The environment supported that,” he said. “I would come into jazz band and be like, ‘Hey, I have a song.’ And the band would learn it.”

Cafiero also got to curate his own show, choosing the music that would be played and gathering the talent to perform. He earned an associate degree at HCC, then transferred to UMass for his bachelor's degree in music.

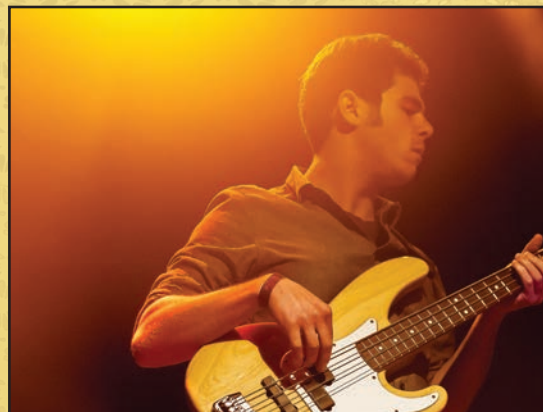
“We're very proud of the Music Department,” said Elissa Brill Pashkin, department chair since 1998. “We're the only department of this size and breadth in Massachusetts at a community college, and we're one of only 20-some nationwide accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.”

HCC offers both an associate degree in music as well as a music performance certificate; one highlight of the Music Department is its large faculty of music instructors who also teach at Mount Holyoke, Amherst and Smith colleges.

Pashkin said the college has roughly 80 music students; most are enrolled in the associate program and tend to transfer to four-year colleges and music schools such as the New England Conservatory or the Hartt School associated with the University of Hartford.

Some students focus on honing their performance skills; others go into music education to become K-12 teachers or they get master's degrees and teach at the college level. Others head toward careers in music therapy or recording technology programs.

Three full-time faculty members, who each perform on their own outside of their work at the college, carry the department: **Professor Robert Ferrier**, '77, coordinates the jazz



JESSE CAFIERO, TOP; CHRISTOPHER KOZAK, BOTTOM

program and annual Jazz Festival (March 22 was kick-off night for the festival this year), and he teaches core courses, including aural skills and jazz improv; Professor Ellen Cogen specializes in vocal training, teaching choral ensembles and the musical theater workshop; Pashkin is a composer, teaches the second year of music theory and the music colloquium and organizes private lessons.

“We believe that everybody has the right to have a musical education, and if you haven't had it at this point, it's not too late to start,” she said. “It's a place where a lot of people really get what they've been looking for.”


After HCC, **Christopher Kozak**, '96, went to UMass, where he earned his master's degree in African American jazz studies with a focus on double bass. He is now director of jazz studies at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

He said Ferrier is still an influence in his life.

“He was so passionate about the music,” Kozak said. “The way he taught was very personal, and it was all about the passion of the music of art.”

Kozak tries to evoke Ferrier with his students, reminding them that their work is about the journey and not the immediate goals.

As director of jazz studies, Kozak leads the premiere jazz ensemble and teaches classes that range from film scoring to recording techniques. He also performs.

“It's important to keep our art fresh,” he said. 

From HCC to DHG

Northampton newspaper an incubator for graphic design graduates

By Michael Reardon



RITA TURCOTTE, ABOVE; PETER KING, OPPOSITE

Step into the graphics department at the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and, at any given time, you are likely to find most of the computers occupied by current and former students from Holyoke Community College.

Graphics director Rita Turcotte, '95, and HCC graphic arts professor Beverly Wodicka have for years collaborated to channel HCC graduates to the *Gazette* and its weekly sister paper, *The Valley Advocate*.

Turcotte went to work part time at the *Gazette* right after graduation, but that soon turned into a full-time job. Now that she's in charge of the Northampton, Mass., newspaper's graphics department, she is happy to give other students the same opportunity.

"Because of my connection to Holyoke Community College, I've always gone back to see if someone is about to graduate or needs an internship," she said. "The people I've hired have always worked out well in our department. It's a credit to HCC's program."

Gazette employees Isabella Dell'Olio, '10, and Chad LeBaron, '06, started as interns. Peter King, '10, and Eric Trieu, '11, are working as interns now.



Wodicka said HCC has interns working at a number of area businesses but the *Gazette* is one of the most stable and welcoming. "It's a good place for students to see how a business works," Wodicka said. "They have to learn to do things quickly and on deadline. They're in a real-life situation and not in a classroom setting. They're getting a lot of good experience."

A degree or certificate in graphic design won't in and of itself land someone a *Gazette* job or internship. Turcotte said she always looks for the best talent, and that's where the HCC graphic design program stands out. Over the years, she has hired about a dozen employees and interns from HCC.

"Because of the pace of the newspaper business, we don't have time to teach people programs," said Turcotte. "To get a job, you need to know Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator and have a strong portfolio."



PETER KING AND CHAD LEBARON, ABOVE.

Dell'Olio, a native of Italy, said HCC's graphic design program prepared her for work at the *Gazette* because it offered a combination of an art education and computer training. By emphasizing both art and technology, the school gave her a solid foundation to enter the workforce.

"I've always been interested in the arts, but I couldn't just be an artist," Dell'Olio said. "I needed structure and a purpose. Graphic design includes both creativity and precision, and it really works for me. This job combines the two."

LeBaron, who also had an art background, earned a certificate in graphic design from HCC. He was hired as an intern at the *Gazette* the summer following his graduation and was given a full-time job two weeks later.


Like Dell'Olio, LeBaron saw graphic design as a way to make a living while still being creative. He credits the HCC program for its hands-on approach to preparing students for work.

"The program had a practical aspect to it," LeBaron said. "There were several opportunities to do real world work. A department at the school might need a logo or a poster for a jazz concert. It would become a class project."

King graduated with an associate degree in visual arts with a focus on graphic design. He is enrolled at Westfield State University and working for his bachelor's degree.

"Holyoke Community College was wonderful," King said. "It gave me a lot of tools to start me on my way and a great sense of what's current and of what's required to effectively communicate your message."

Eric Trieu, who graduated with a graphic arts degree in 2011, said he went to HCC because he heard the art department was outstanding. He found the teachers to be extremely dedicated to their students and experienced in a real-world working environment.

"A lot of teachers are working artists and they bring that perspective into the classroom," Trieu said. "I apply what I learned from each teacher to what I do now. They helped me grow as an artist and into the person I am today. I wouldn't be able to work at the *Gazette* if I did not take the right classes at HCC." 



HCC alums pair up for high-tech design

By MICHAEL REARDON

Bill Alatalo, '99, was a struggling artist. Antonio Costa, '99, installed home theater and car audio systems. HCC's graphic design program changed their lives.

Today, the pair operate a thriving high-tech design company called cdeVision LLC (cdeVision.com) that includes website design, print design and advertising, mobile design and development and content management system development.

The journey to success for Alatalo and Costa began when they met as classmates at HCC. When they graduated in 1999 with certificates in graphic design, they went their separate ways, working at places such as newspapers and advertising agencies.

But the cubicle life wasn't for them, so Alatalo

and Costa joined forces in 2003 to form their company, Concept, Design, Engineer Vision, or cdeVision. They worked out of their homes, and in 2004 moved into 4 Open Square Way in Holyoke.

"The core of what we do every day is what we learned at Holyoke Community College," Alatalo said. "Getting the graphic design certificate was the best thing I ever did."

Costa said HCC's graphic design program prepared him for the leap they took into high-tech designing.

"HCC set a really good base to continue growing as an artist," he said. "I never would have learned how to program without that mentality. Ninety percent of what we do is web design. Graphic arts is a really good base for web design."

Costa adds that the graphic design certificate program is in tune with the needs of potential employers, so when students leave to find work they are prepared for the marketplace.

"The technology keeps on changing," he said, "and the graphic arts course taught me how to learn and grow with those changes." *Ac*

BILL ALATALO AND ANTONIO COSTA, CLASS OF '99, ABOVE.

CLASS NOTEBOOK

1959

Douglas W. Barrus learned bookkeeping at Holyoke Junior College. After graduating from HJC, he worked in various positions in accounting and finance at Springfield College, Albright College (Penn.), Rose Tree Media School District (Penn.), Acton-Boxborough School District (Mass.), and the City of Methuen (Mass.), where he served as treasurer and tax collector for 15 years.

1973



Suzan E. Jaffe, PhD, is the author of two books, *For the Grieving Child, an Activities Manual*, and *The Fake Birthday*, (co-authored with

Gerri Rudner) a novel about a girl who has an identity crisis as she approaches her 13th birthday, leading to a series of revelations and adventures. Both books are available at www.amazon.com.

1974



Nancy Fields received her BFA and BA in Fine Arts from the University of Colorado, Boulder, then worked in New York for *Glamour*, *Mademoiselle* and

Weight Watchers magazines as a fashion and beauty editor, and was a television producer for PBS affiliate WGBY-TV before starting a family. Now she is creating WordPress websites for clients. She also produces a line of monogram notecards that are available at www.amazon.com (search on Fruit Monogram Notecards). Alumni can view her portfolio of print work at www.fieldsgraphicdesign.com or call (413) 584-1185.

1978

Dan Overton is a photographer, actor, and model living in Holyoke, Mass. He is a freelance photojournalist for several local newspapers as well as being a wildlife photographer. He has been in more than 20 films, from indie to Hollywood features, as well as student thesis films. His photographs, as well as film trailers can be seen at www.danoverton.com.

1982

Tony Kelly was inducted into the Western Mass. Golf Hall of Fame at Wycoff Country Club on October 5, 2012.

1984

Maryann K. Watson is assistant to the director of training for Quest Energy Solutions in Auburn, Mass. Quest is an energy broker for small businesses in New England, helping them lower utility costs. For more information, email kwatson@questenergysolutions.com or call (413) 229-2080.

1987

Bob Bauer earned his AS in retail management at HCC and then earned a BS in marketing at Western New England University. He is a packaging sales representative with Packaging Corp of America (PCA), the fourth largest national corrugated manufacturer. Bauer has worked at PCA for 10 years. Prior to that, Bauer's sales career began with Bunzl USA, a company specializing in the distribution of packaging products for food services and supermarkets across the U.S.

1992

Michael Archbald is owner/administrator of Collective Home Care, Inc. in South Deerfield, Mass. Since 1999, Collective Home Care has built a strong reputation for providing compassionate, professional home health care services with well

trained home health aides and nursing staff. Collective Home Care serves all of Hampshire County and most of Franklin County for the state home care program through Medicare, the Department of Veteran Affairs, Mass. Rehab., and private clients. For more information, visit www.collectivehomecare.com

1993

Kimberly Leask is Quality Assurance Project Lead at TyMetrix, a Wolters Kluwer business (www.tymetrix.com). She has worked at TyMetrix for more than 10 years and has held several positions within the company. Her responsibilities include: creating test cases based on client specifications; execution of test cases; logging defects and re-testing after repairs; resource allocation; scheduling; project plans; and creating SQL queries/scripts.

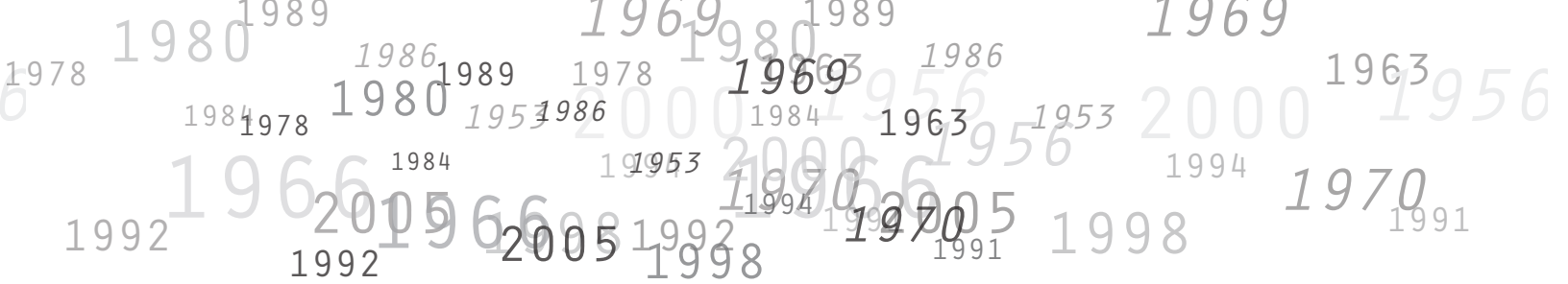
1994



Gina M. Barry, a member of the Estate Planning and Elder Law Department with the law firm of Bacon Wilson, P.C., in Springfield, Mass.,

has been distinguished as a New England "Rising Star" by *Boston* magazine each year since 2006. Also, in 2007, Barry founded The Joy of Jasper, Inc., a non-profit horse sanctuary located in Easthampton, Mass., that provides homes to abused, abandoned, unwanted or neglected horses and encourages volunteerism by at-risk youth.

Catherine (West) Lowry teaches accounting and taxation at the Isenberg School of Management at UMass-Amherst. She also teaches ethics and advanced taxes in the MSA program. She has worked in the field of public



accounting for 16 years in the areas of taxation of public and privately held companies, partnerships, individuals, and tax-exempt organizations, and has been involved in initial public offerings for large corporations. She was honored with the Isenberg Outstanding Teaching Award 2010-2011 by students in the Department of Continuing and Professional Education.

1998



Sarah Ward Gaer

worked in the mental health field for several years after graduating from HCC. She then earned a master's degree in clinical mental health

counseling, specializing in trauma and veterans, from Antioch New England. She has continued to specialize in the area of trauma response and counseling, and, most recently, she was the team leader for the MassSupport Network that responded to the survivors of the June 1, 2011, tornado in Massachusetts. She has accepted a position working with Riverside Trauma Center in Needham, Mass., as a suicide prevention specialist and looks forward to continuing her work with trauma survivors.

1999



Christine

Southworth, RN, is a holistic nurse educator and owner of Southworth Wellness, LLC. She teaches individuals and

groups to prevent chronic conditions by helping them with tools to cope and actually thrive with grace in the midst of life's stressors. In her practice, she uses relaxation techniques, play, and expressive art with individuals and

conducts interactive stress management workshops and team building for groups and businesses. For more information, please visit southworthwellness.com or call (413) 579-1690.



2000

Marcia Wise has two solo art shows coming up, one at Salmon Falls Artisan Gallery in June and July, and another at the Grubbs Gallery

at the Williston Northampton School in Easthampton, Mass., in November 2013. She made a pilgrimage to northern and central India in February 2013, and the trip is inspiring her current work.

2004



Elizabeth Roman is a reporter for *The Republican*, www.MassLive.com, and *El Pueblo Latino*.

After attending HCC, Roman went on to receive a bachelor's degree in English at UMass. She has been employed with *The Republican* for nearly 10 years and covers everything from human interest features to crime, politics, education and municipal government.

2005

April E. Bowers is a nurse practitioner at Hampden County Physician Associates, working out of the Ludlow office. She practices in the areas of internal medicine, gastroenterology, hospitalist medicine, and emergency medicine. She is also affiliated with Wing Hospital in Palmer, Mass.

Gineen Cooper is a Commonwealth College honors student at UMass. She is a recipient of two Western Mass. Foundation grants and is a yearly

recipient of a UMass grant. She is a double major in psychology and studio art. She is now launching a writing coaching business and continues to lead groups in the use of writing, movement, meditation, collage, dreamwork and painting. Cooper has shown her visual work in local galleries for 15 years and has participated in local poetry and fiction readings. She has been published in many literary journals, including *Naugatuck River Review's* Winter '10 issue of narrative poetry. For more information, visit www.gineen.com.

2008

Stephanie Devine-Gilbert was cast as "Maggie the Cat" in the Monson Arts Council's production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," in April 2012 at Memorial Hall in Monson. Devine-Gilbert has studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston and Circle in the Square Theater School for Musical Theater in N.Y.C., and she has acted in numerous productions.

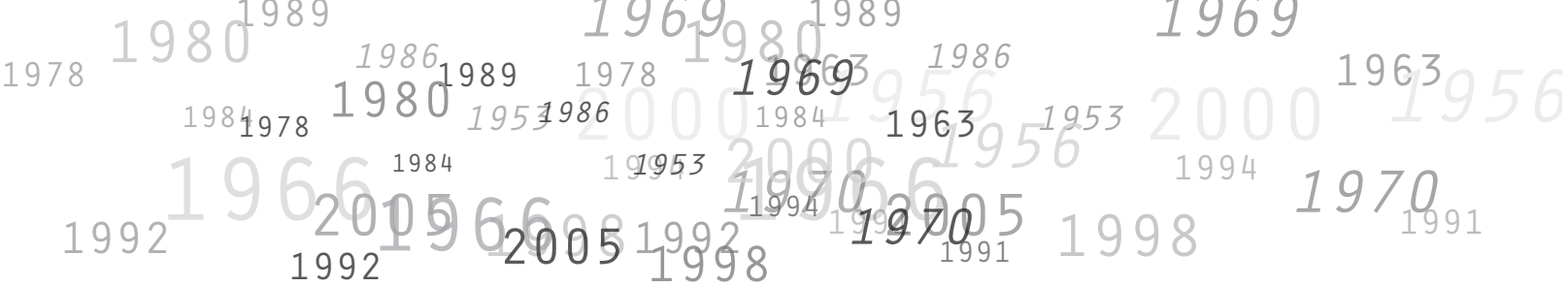


Andrew Grincavitch

has been appointed IT Lab Manager at HCC. He will be responsible for managing and maintaining the many computer labs

across the campus. Prior to coming to HCC, he had worked in the Simsbury, Conn., school system.

Walter E. Rice earned his BA from Framingham State University in December 2012. He served on the Committee of Diversity Inclusion and was a resident assistant. He says those volunteer experiences gave him new perspectives that have been valuable within his psychology major.



2009

Pete Charron is vice president of Pure Flight, Inc. a disc golf and Ultimate retail store at 9 East Pleasant St. in Amherst, Mass. They have an inventory of more than 2,000 disks from the four major manufacturers, including Ultimate frisbees. They also have LED Frisbees, light-up balls, and light-up carabiners and carry VC Ultimate apparel and their own apparel, including sweatshirts, polos, T-shirts, hats, and beanies. They hold putting clinics and demos. Alumni wanting more information can call (413) 230-3057 or visit www.throwpure.com.

2010

Sarah L. Carver is a registered representative with First Investors of East Hartford, Conn., which provides mutual funds, life insurance and annuities. Alumni are invited to contact her at (860) 282-4600 X 205 or email sarah.carver@firstinvestors.com.

Nicholas J. Doherty was unable to finish high school due to medical issues. He obtained a GED from HCC and enrolled in HCC in the fall of 2007. Doherty was inducted into the junior honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, and graduated from HCC in 2010. In spring 2012, he was inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, at UMass Amherst, from which he will graduate in 2013. Following graduation, he plans to enroll in a graduate program in history to do research and become a college professor.

Diane McCray was selected as one of three recipients of the 2012 Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education (MWPHE) Student Achievement Scholarship Award. She was honored at the annual MWPHE spring conference in Lynnfield, Mass. McCray continues to flourish as a student at Westfield State University, expecting to graduate with a degree in social work and minor in psychology in May 2013.

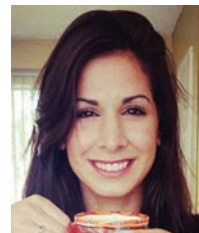
Manuel Pintado is an advocate for veterans' rights and for prisoners' rights. He is also working with veterans recovering from alcoholism. He volunteers with the Peace and Justice committee at the First Churches in Northampton, Mass. In October, he will participate in his second walk across Massachusetts, sponsored by PHENOM, the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts. To learn more about PHENOM, visit www.phenomonline.org.

Jim Sliski is currently enrolled in the architecture and design program at UMass-Amherst. He was awarded an Accessibility Award by the Stavros Center for Independent Living and was chosen based on his efforts to increase awareness of accessibility needs and the resulting changes that were made at HCC because of his efforts.



Lisa Smith has been promoted to vice president of Consumer Lending at PeoplesBank in Holyoke, Mass. Smith had previously served as assistant vice president, Consumer Lending. Smith possesses 29 years of financial and banking experience. She earned her associate degree in business administration from HCC and attended the New England School for Financial Studies.

2011



Nina Scarnici graduated from the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst as a marketing major. At the Isenberg School, she was fortunate enough to meet an inspiring Professor, Mzamo Mangaliso, where she learned

about cultural behaviors and customs in business. In her last semester, she was his teaching assistant in a world leadership course. (She suggests that any student reading this magazine should take his courses). Scarnici is now living in California and works as a corporate marketing coordinator.

2012

Rich Bravman is co-owner of Mad Capture Media, a video production/ photography company in Western Mass. After studying with Justin West and Jay Ducharme, he landed an internship with CNN at Time Warner Center in NYC, where he became associate producer for stories with CNN Money. There, he created a series called "Best Advice," a series of videos of CEOs from AT&T, Yahoo, Ford, AOL, and other major companies. Now his company does a range of work, from videos of weddings, to videos for small businesses, nonprofits and colleges. Alumni are invited to visit www.madcapture.com where they can see clips of the company's work.

Margie Santos is an independent consultant with Tastefully Simple, a direct sales company that offers delicious food samples at home, taste-testing parties, along with easy ideas for everyday meals, recipes and serving suggestions. All of the products are ready to serve or need only one or two ingredients. Alumni can find out more information by contacting Margie at (413) 594-3707 or jmbuddies@yahoo.com.

Have some news to share?

Send it to the Alumni Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040 or via email to jbrown@hcc.edu.



I have no doubt that certain events and connections in my life were truly meant to be – meant to shape my life and influence how it unfolded. Attending Holyoke Community College was one of those important synchronicities. My decision to attend was not based on the need to further my career or change it. I had a career as a critical care nurse, which I loved, and my life was very full as a wife, homemaker and mother to two young children.

Amidst these already fulfilling roles, I felt a need to nurture a deeper sense of self. I was yearning to expand my awareness of things going on in this world and to enrich my creative self. I was already writing poetry and was inspired to learn that the college had a literary magazine. To determine how and if I would fit into this college setting I decided to try out one course. So, in the summer of 1986 I signed up for “Short Story,” made my way onto the campus, and from that moment on I knew I belonged at HCC.

As a part-time student, I spent four immensely fulfilling and rewarding years at HCC before graduating as the valedictorian of my class and receiving The Distinguished Student Scholar Award from *USA Today*. It was also during my time at HCC that I began writing *HATTIE*, my literary novel, which was recently published. So much of what I experienced at HCC – the coursework, the bonds I formed with professors, being editor of *Tarah*, the literary magazine, my involvement with the honors program and Phi Theta Kappa, and the meaningful friendships formed in the Women in Transition program – encouraged my commitment to writing and the expressive process.

My heartfelt connection to the school continues to this day. I cannot speak about the woman and writer I am today without reflecting on and giving credit to all that I learned, experienced, and lived at Holyoke Community College.

Anna Bozena Bowen '90
www.AnnaBozenaBowen.com

In Memoriam

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

Kathleen M. Griffith '71

Michael S. Raymond '72

Vernon N. Comstock '72

Kevin B. O'Hare '77

Mark R. Ahern '78

Elizabeth Haller '82, *administrative assistant,
 Center for Integrative Learning*

Susan E. Gaughan '83

Diane Raschilla '85

Rose B. Bogdanovich '87

Lisa M. Dinkins '87

Shannon F. Frazier-Owczarski '88

Martha E. Keochareon, RN '93

Robbie J. Lusignan '94

Amanda LaRiviere Harrelson '05

Carol T. Hayes, *English Professor, retired*

ALUMNI IN ACTION



Alum rallies community to save lives

Susan Hall, '05, HCC valedictorian and Wellesley College graduate, '09, worked with her family to coordinate the Tiffany Hall Memorial Community CPR training at the YMCA Dunbar Community Center in Springfield in fall 2012. Approximately 70 people received life-saving training in CPR for adults and children. Tiffany, Susan's younger sister, and the youngest of 13 children, died suddenly in spring 2012.

Front, left to right: John Houghton (Red Cross volunteer), Barrington D. Hall, Amaya Thornton, Janet Read (EMT, instructor/coordinator of this event), Susan Hall '05, Kai'Yah Hall-Swan, Whitney Hall-Swan, and Bea O'Quinn Dewberry. Back row: Rick Lee, director of the Pioneer Valley Chapter Red Cross, and Dan Hall.



Visionary Club holds gala

Annette Davis-Harris, '04, is the founder of The Visionary Club, a social support group for people who are visually impaired or blind. The Visionary Club celebrated its second anniversary with a benefit dinner attended by 90 people on January 24, 2013, at the Shriners' Hospital in Springfield, Mass. In the last two years, the Visionary Club has donated 1,400 books to the Shriners' Hospital and 100 books to Head Start, filled 22 backpacks with school supplies for elementary students, distributed 100 kits with toiletries, washcloths, and personal care items to area shelters in Springfield, and donated food baskets and clothing to families in need. Additionally, the club has held a collection of blankets, cleaning products and pet food for Dakin Animal Shelter. "We don't have sight, but we have great vision," Davis-Harris said. Alumni wishing to find out more can call her at (413) 783-6612.

Providing care in Dominica

Meredith Janelle, '08, graduated from the practical nursing program at HCC and then earned her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from UMass Amherst. During her undergraduate studies she worked for an extended care facility and also as a nurse for a home health care agency. She is currently a third-year medical student at Ross University School of Medicine and will graduate in May 2015. She has volunteered with the Salybia Mission Project, a student-run organization that provides medical care and health education to the native Kalinago tribe in Dominica, West Indies.

Meredith Janelle, far right, at a children's clinic in Dominica.



Bruin visit lifts spirits

Brian Dee, '79, co-founder of VizConnect (with Ed Carroll), arranged for Rick Middleton, former Bruin's captain, to visit 14-year-old Danny Doyle after his open heart surgery in Boston Children's Hospital. Danny, a devoted Bruin's

fan and hockey player, will need to sit out this hockey season, but his spirits were lifted by Rick's visit and his gift of Bruin's sports memorabilia.



From left: Brian Dee, David Doyle (Danny's father), Tim Doyle (Danny's brother), Rick Middleton, Danny Doyle, and Danny's mother, Suzanne Doyle, '79.

HCC presents
SUMMER CAREER
ADVENTURES 2013

Offering career camps for grades 6-12, including Tech Kidz 3-D digital video game design, Biz Kidz Young Entrepreneurs Camp, CSI: HCC Forensics Lab, Picasso Visual Arts, Extreme Science, Mummy Lives Archaeology Camp, and Digital Photography.

For more information write to workforce@hcc.edu or call (413) 552-2506.



Using an art degree creatively

Robert J. Wing, '92, directs Child Life programming for children and families served by UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center in Worcester. In his work, he uses art therapy, talking, and play to help children and families cope with the stress of pediatric hospitalization. He studied photography, ceramics and art history at HCC, earned his BFA in photography and ceramics at the Art Institute of Boston, and an MA in creative arts therapy. Wing said his career in Child Life Services perfectly combines his interests in creating art, conducting art therapy, and helping children, and he suggests it as an alternative career path for both education and art students.

THE LAST WORD

Dear Alumni,

We continue to focus on what we are about – how to be the best Alumni Association at any community college in the country.

There are many ways for alumni to help Holyoke Community College. Donating to this college through the HCC Foundation is certainly one of these, and I hope that you will read Joanna Brown's letter on Page 3 to learn more about our important work supporting HCC.

There are other ways to help HCC too. Every time you tell someone about your experience attending Holyoke Community College, you help strengthen the college's reputation and image. You might also inspire that person to further his or her educational goals by being a role model.

A less obvious way to help HCC is to update your employment information in our alumni database. Each time we approach a local business for potential support, we are asked "How many alumni work for my company?" And, when we apply for regional, state, and national grant support, we are being asked for more and more data about our alumni

than ever before, and if we have that information, it can facilitate our grant applications.

Finally, we know the value that "informational interviews" have for our students as they explore career options. If you are willing to talk (in person or via phone) with a student about your own career path and offer advice concerning skills that are most needed in your line of work, please check the box on the form below and mail it to us as soon as possible. Whether you have a senior position or an entry level one, your insight and experience will be invaluable to a student. Your response may be the beginning of a successful career journey for a student or it might allow a student to decide not to pursue a specific career path, which is valuable in itself.

We continue to focus on what we are about – 28,000 HCC alumni, proud of their community college, seeking to provide opportunity to the next generation of students.

Please take a moment to fill out the form below and mail it today. We need your involvement to continue our great work at HCC.



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

Sincerely,

Gloria G. Lomax '75

President, Holyoke Community College
Alumni Association
Professor Emeritus

Employment Information/E-newsletter sign-up

Name: _____

Former name: _____

Year of graduation or years attended: _____

Address: _____

Home/cell phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Employer: _____ **Position:** _____

Yes! Sign me up for the new alumni e-newsletter with additional news and campus events.

I would be willing to talk to a student (in person or by phone) about my career field

Email Address: _____

Class note to be published in the **Alumni Connection:**

Please share your email and employment information.

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 June 1, 2013.

HCC Album



One way or another, we are all slaves to the clock. This is particularly true on a college campus, where time continually nudges and pokes and pulls and drives events forward with unrelenting force. Here, the schedule is the master. Classes meet. Deadlines are set. Semesters end and begin again. Time moves. We follow.

At HCC, we would all do well to look up once in a while at the clock tower that stands over the campus from the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development. The Alumni Association Clock Tower, as it is called, was dedicated in a ceremony on July 9, 2008, in recognition of \$500,000 in donations alumni made toward the construction of the Kittredge Center.

The tower actually includes two clocks, one facing east and the other west. Both are seven-feet square. The clock face of each is made from laminated glass, the hands and dial marks are stainless steel. According to Thomas Erb, president of Electric Time, the Medford, Mass., company that built the custom-made clocks in conjunction with the building architects, Goody Clancy, of Boston, laminated glass was chosen to

complement the windows in the rest of the building. “A glass dial is very special,” said Erb. “That’s unique.”

The clocks have proven to be reliable timekeepers. They’re run by built-in computers. Thomas Jacques, HCC’s chief power plant engineer, says they have failed only once since the building was finished in 2006. Good thing, since manual adjustment is precarious, he said. The clockworks can only be accessed from the fifth floor of Kittredge Center by a worker on a scissor lift.

Nevertheless, time on these clocks does not always progress steadily. The computers that run the clocks automatically correct for daylight savings time twice a year. How does that work on an analog clock, you may wonder? When we “fall back” each November, the clocks in the HCC tower automatically stop for one hour until time catches up. In March, when we “spring ahead,” the clocks shift into “advance mode” and the hands turn at an accelerated rate until they catch up with time. Sounds like we could all benefit from a chip like that. ⚡

ALUMNI CONNECTION

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Holyoke, MA 01040
www.hcc.edu

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2013 EVENTS

To register for the events below, go to <https://foundationalumni.hcc.edu> (click "upcoming events" in the left menu bar), call (413) 552-2253, or email jbrown@hcc.edu

Wednesday, May 1

2013 Alumni/Student Nursing Supper

5:00-7:00 p.m. PeoplesBank Conference Room, Kittredge Center.

Keynote speaker: Kelly Keane, RN, HCC nursing education specialist, will share the inspiring story of HCC nursing graduate Martha Keochareon '93, and how she enriched the learning of HCC nursing students during the final chapter of her life. Free to HCC nursing alumni, students, faculty, staff, and retirees. Register now!

Saturday, May 18

HCC Baseball Alumni Reunion Game

Noon, HCC baseball diamond

Former members of the HCC baseball team invited to attend. To sign up to play, email Coach Terry Murphy at tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net prior to the event. Cost: \$25 donation per player to defray food expenses. We hope to make this an annual event. No registration necessary.

Sunday, May 19

HCC Cougar Crawl 5K Run/Walk

10:00 a.m. HCC campus

This year, the proceeds from this popular run/walk around

the tree-lined campus of Holyoke Community College will go to the Building Healthy Communities Campaign. Register at www.hcc.edu/crawl. For more information, contact Keith McKittrick, director of development, (413) 552-2746, kmckittrick@hcc.edu

Tuesday, May 28

Women and Wealth with Pat Grenier, '77, CFP

6:00 p.m. (Location on campus to be announced)

Pat Grenier, CFP, president and co-founder of BRP Grenier Financial Services, will discuss why it is important to invest, how to invest, and how to work with the emotional issues that women often encounter along the way. Free. Register now!

Thursday, June 13

36th Annual Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner

6-8:30 p.m., Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House, 500 Easthampton Road, Holyoke.

2013 Distinguished Alumni Awardees:

Steven G. Richter '75, Ph.D. and Michael F. Kane, '90.

A benefit to raise funds for Alumni Association Scholarships. Open to the public; register by May 20, 2013; \$50 per person.