

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Holyoke Medical Center

FALL 2013

→ Main Entrance
← **EMERGENCY**
→ Parking D,E
← Parking A,B,C
← Visitors

HCC alumni thrive in health fields

And

A Nurse's Ultimate Gift

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Futures Inspired

BILL'S BULLETIN



HCC President William F. Messner

I am proud to announce the launch of HCC's Building Healthy Communities Campaign—a campaign that will transform HCC and resonate far beyond our campus—one that I hope will inspire your personal support.

As you are aware, healthcare in the United States has undergone a profound transformation. It now accounts for nearly one-sixth of the nation's economy, with job growth projected well into the future. Even during the recession, healthcare continued to add jobs. Despite this, there is a national shortage of healthcare workers—and, due to space limitations, HCC has been unable to increase the number of nursing and life science students we educate.

Last year, a building adjacent the HCC campus became available. Here was our opportunity to expand HCC's healthcare programs and provide access to careers in this high-demand area. With approval from the college's board of trustees, we purchased the building and began planning one of the most ambitious undertakings in HCC history.

The Center for Health Education will occupy the former Grynn & Barrett photography studio on Jarvis Avenue. The future home of HCC's nursing and radiologic technology programs will feature high-tech simulation labs and radiography equipment, as well as space for nursing students to conduct blood pressure screenings, immunization clinics and well-child screenings for area residents.

The Center for Life Sciences will occupy the space in the Marieb building vacated by the nursing and radiologic technology programs. The future home of the Foundations of Health, biology, environmental science, sustainability and veterinary technician programs will offer state-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms and equipment. It will also feature the only student-accessible "clean room"—a sterile research environment—in Western Massachusetts.

These facilities will also serve as resources for the larger community. HCC's "clean room" will be made available to life science businesses in Western Massachusetts, while the Center for Health Education will provide community health and wellness services and serve as a simulation training facility for employees from local hospitals and health care providers.

As an alum of HCC, you know firsthand what access to education means to individuals, families and communities. This is a historic opportunity, but we need your support to make it a success. Please give generously by going to www.hcc.edu/ donate, or you can fill out the form on page 3. Together, we can transform our college and the lives of the students and community it serves.

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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Gateway to College marks milestone

HCC's Gateway to College program recognized 13 students in June at its 10th graduation ceremony. The event marked a major milestone for the program, celebrating its 100th and 101st graduates since starting up at HCC in 2008. The program, one of 43 in the U.S., takes students who have dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out and puts them in college classes, where they earn both their high school degrees and college credits. This class of Gateway graduates, from Holyoke, Palmer, Springfield, Longmeadow, South Hadley and Worthington, earned a total of 215 college credits. Almost all of them are going on to college this fall, many at HCC.

New graduate Alberto Febus, center, celebrates with Gateway staff, Vivian Ostrowski, Jada Waters, Michael Rodriguez and Julissa Colon.



Business major elevates pitch

The premise was simple but unique – a mobile food service that delivers fresh, healthy meals to your office at the end of the working day. Bring dinner home and serve it up. Business major Taylor Kachinski honed her pitch for “The Wheelin’ Chef” in the classrooms at HCC. Last spring she beat out contestants from 13 other public and private colleges and universities in western Massachusetts to take first place in the annual Elevator Pitch competition sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. She earned her associate degree June 1 and after a summer in Italy studying international marketing will now get to work on her bachelor’s degree at the University of Massachusetts Isenberg School of Management.

Taylor Kachinski, '13, accepts her award from philanthropist Harold Grinspoon and Cari Carpenter, director of the Grinspoon Entrepreneurship Initiative.

Guitar teacher scores prize

Guitarist Phillip de Fremery usually performs classical pieces from memory that he has practiced for decades. But the live soundtrack he created for the HCC theater production of “The House of Bernada Alba” last fall was mostly improvised, given that the music had to complement the pacing of the dialogue, which changed with each performance. “Nothing like I’ve ever done before,” said de Fremery, who has been playing professionally for 50 years and teaching guitar at HCC since 1986. “I was scared stiff.” For that score, de Fremery earned an award for best original music from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The award, said Patricia Sandoval, who directed the play by Federico Garcia Lorca, was an “incredible honor” for both de Fremery and HCC.

HCC guitar teacher Phillip de Fremery warms up between lessons.



AROUND CAMPUS



HCC hosts 'active shooter' drill

Police stormed the fourth and fifth floors of the Kittredge Center with guns drawn. Plastic guns. Brightly colored water guns, actually, the kind used by kids who want to soak each other on hot summer days. These weapons signaled that police actions were part of an "active shooter" drill conducted at HCC on May 28. The day-long exercise included state, local and campus police, K-9 and EMT teams and fire department squads, as well as student actors from Boston University portraying the shooter and his victims. The drill was designed so public safety departments could test their response methods and crisis management practices and the college could test its emergency communication system.

Police officers carrying water pistols search the Kittredge Center for suspects during an active shooter drill at HCC.

Students soak up water lessons

They tossed bean bags into toilet bowls, built dams out of sand, scooped up plastic dog turds, floated paper clips in little cups and constructed model aquifers out of soda, ice cream and sprinkles. The 2013 Bay State Children's Water Festival brought nearly 1,500 fifth graders to HCC (and 200 volunteers) for the day-long event organized by the national nonprofit Water Systems Council. Students learned about the power and significance of water through a series of interactive demonstrations and games led by experts from local, state and national organizations. "The lesson we hope they take away is that water resources are precious and finite and they need to do what they can to preserve them," said Margaret Martens, Water Systems Council program director.

Fifth graders from Westfield's Franklin Avenue School drain their edible aquifers at the Bay State Children's Water Festival at HCC.



Pig offers lessons in forensics

Entomology is crucial in forensic science. As Professor Elizabeth Butin tells students in her "Insects and Forensics" classes, different bugs visit decomposing bodies at different times. "That's how you know how long it's been there," she says. Since HCC classes can't use human cadavers, a pig head from a local butcher must do. Butin's students placed "Miss Piggy" in the forest behind HCC and then went back in subsequent weeks to collect the insects that arrived. In the lab, they examined centipedes, blow flies, cheese skippers and carrion beetles. They brought back maggots, fed them beef liver and reared them into flies so they could identify the species, because, as they learned, all maggots look alike.

HCC forensics professor Elizabeth Butin holds a pig head before hauling it to the forest.

Dear HCC alumni,

Every time I attend a nursing school "pinning" ceremony here at HCC, I am moved when I see the graduates light their candles and I hear them recite the "Nightingale Pledge," which includes these commitments, among others:

"... to alleviate suffering and to promote health ... respect the dignity and spiritual beliefs of patients... do my utmost to maximize the potential of the nursing profession and to uphold and advance its standards."

Holyoke Community College is doing its part to advance the standards of the nursing profession by investing in the future of nursing and radiologic technology education through our Building Healthy Communities campaign. This campaign will help create the new Center for Health Education, containing state-of-the-art classrooms and simulation (SIM) laboratories in the former Grynn & Barrett photography building on Jarvis Avenue.

In SIM lab sessions, which complement clinical rotations in hospitals, nursing students will practice assessments and treatments, from routine to unusual and highly complex, on life-like computerized SIM mannequins that can be programmed to have a full range of physical conditions and emotions. Noelle, a maternal mannequin, can even be programmed to go through pregnancy and give birth.

Future HCC nursing and rad tech students will be our caregivers and the caregivers of our loved ones in the coming decades. Your participation in this campaign will ensure that our health care students receive the best education possible.

We will need donations from thousands of alumni to help us reach our \$5.3 million goal by June 30, 2015. Please give as generously as you are able and return the coupon below today, or donate securely online at www.hcc.edu/donate.

I thank you.



Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

Joanna Brown

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 Director of Alumni Relations

2014 HCC Annual Fund Building Healthy Communities Campaign

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

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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

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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 2014 Annual Giving Report

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

COMMUNITY CARE

HCC alumni thrive in health fields By Janice Beetle

Through its various health care programs, Holyoke Community College trains people to care for others. As a result, the work of alumni ranges from tending to hospital patients and delivering babies to taking X-rays and running medical practices. By rough count, alumni from HCC's nursing and radiologic technology programs work in well over 100 different medical and health facilities in Massachusetts alone. This feature offers snapshots of five of them.



Laurie Beauchemin, '85, Perinatal Nurse, Wesson Women and Infants Unit, Baystate Medical Center, Springfield

Laurie Beauchemin's year-old son was badly burned by water and steam in a kitchen accident in 1980, and he spent a month in a hospital undergoing reconstructive care. That's when Beauchemin felt a calling.

"I wanted to work with families and reassure them and help them care for their own," she says. "I could learn to treat people as they had treated us, with love and compassion. I suddenly, absolutely knew what I was meant to be: a nurse."

Two years later, divorced, depleted, the single mother of a 3-year-old, Beauchemin was led by a friend's advice to try Holyoke Community College. She had no thought that she might be successful, but she entered through the Women in Transition Program, and a year later found herself on the list for the nursing program.

Beauchemin earned her associate degree and started a career offering postpartum and nursery care in 1988 at the Wesson Women and Infants Unit of Baystate Medical Center. After raising her son Joel and helping her second husband in his business, she was able to earn a master's degree in midwifery in 2009, at age 55, from Frontier Nursing University in Hyden, Kentucky.

"As a child, I was so excited by birth," she says. "I awoke one morning to the wonder of kittens being born at the foot of my bed... I was honored then and continue to feel that wonder and blessing at every birth I attend."

Eva Cavanaugh moved from Poland to Holyoke with her family in 1962 at age 12. Five years later, she quit Holyoke High School to help her parents supplement their meager factory wages to help provide for the family of seven.

"My parents worked hard and believed in education," she says.

Cavanaugh followed their lead. She began work as a nurse's aide in 1973 at what was then Holyoke Hospital. She has worked there ever since, continuing her education over time and gradually taking on more responsibility.

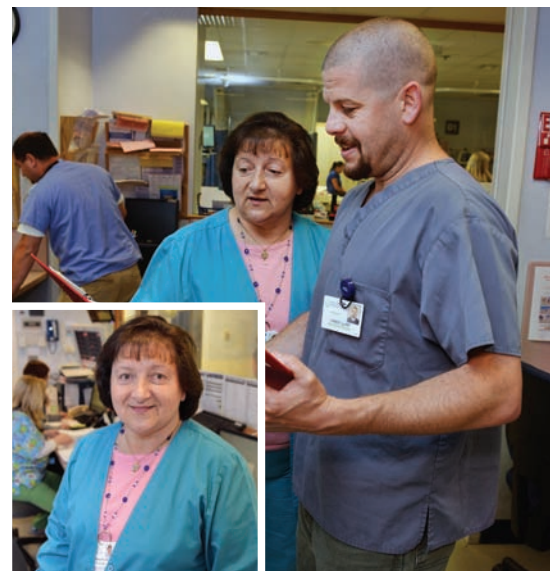
She earned a nursing degree at HCC in 1987 and followed that up with a bachelors of science in nursing at Elms College in 2008.

"I'm always yearning for learning," she says. "I had excellent mentors who saw something more in me and said, 'You can do better.'"

Now Cavanaugh is a mentor. As nurse manager in the medical center's Emergency Department, she oversees close to 100 employees but she still goes on rounds to see patients each day and talk to families, answering questions and educating them about health.

Two of Cavanaugh's siblings went through HCC as well—her brother, an auditor, and a sister, who owns a tailor shop. "HCC did a lot for us," she says, noting that the nursing program provided an excellent foundation. "I got what I needed as an adult student. I wasn't there to get a C+ and pass. I needed to have the smarts to go forward."

"It wasn't an intimidating program," she adds. "You felt they really cared about you."



Eva Cavanaugh, '87, Nurse Manager, Emergency Department, Holyoke Medical Center, Holyoke

Five nights a week, **Philip Straub** hosts a radio show on WRSI 93.9. While he knows there are listeners out there, he is more than likely alone in a sound booth.

Conversely, in his work as a radiographic technologist, Straub has direct contact with each and every patient as he X-rays their bones or preps them for procedures performed by radiologists. "I have direct interaction with patients, and my satisfaction is derived from knowing that I did the best I could for them, and that I was able to help play a role, however small, in their road to recovery," he says.

"I love working with patients, and I try to treat them with care and respect, the way I would want to be treated if I were a patient," Straub adds.

Straub got into this work—he considers music a pastime—after a friend heading to HCC's radiologic technology program invited Straub along. He says the program prepared him well.

"It's an excellent program," he says. "HCC's ability to place students in a variety of hospitals gave me a well-rounded experience."

Straub says a lot of his job is calming patients so they can be still and he can get the best X-rays possible. "I joke with patients. I hold their hands," he says. "Whatever it takes to get satisfactory images so that the radiologist can make an accurate diagnosis."



Philip Straub, '06, Radiographic Technologist, Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield



Pamela Quirk, '76, Director of Nursing, Holyoke Soldiers' Home

Pamela Quirk has moments when the reasons behind her work became crystal clear.

One of them involves a man who thought his life was over when he came to the Soldiers' Home, where she works as director of nursing. Instead, thanks to staff, this man continued to flourish. He was even instrumental in getting the Red Sox to bring the World Series trophy to the Soldiers' Home in 2007 and was invited to throw the first pitch at a Fenway Park game.

"He told me how thankful and grateful he was that we had given him this chance. I realized this is why I do what I do: to make things better, even the little things, so someone's quality of life is better and brighter," Quirk says. "It's to give comfort, relieve pain and, most of all, give hope."

Quirk has been caring for veterans in various roles at the Soldiers' Home since 1986 and in February 2012 was promoted to director of nursing. She oversees the nursing department of roughly 220 employees, and her main focus is ensuring that quality care is delivered to all.

She says HCC gave her a solid base on which to build her nursing career, and she is pleased that HCC continues to develop its nursing program and strengthen its ties to the Soldiers' Home.

"We're starting to collaborate with HCC so nursing students can do clinical rotations here," she says. "There are positive results of that."



Melissa Perry '91, Director of Behavioral Health Nursing, Holyoke Medical Center

As director of Behavioral Health Nursing at Holyoke Medical Center, **Melissa Perry** has limited contact with patients. But when a patient is extremely agitated, Perry is the one called. "They call me the mental health whisperer," she says, explaining that she has a particular skill comforting psychiatric patients. "Instead of moving away from them because I'm nervous, I move in toward them and let them calm down and let them know I'm there for them."

Perry oversees a 20-bed, locked inpatient psychiatric unit at the medical center that offers treatment of a wide variety of psychiatric diagnosis for patients 16 years old and up. She also directs several staff teams at the center and supervises more than 100 clinical coordinators, staff nurses and mental health assistants.

After earning her associate degree in nursing at HCC, graduating in 1991 as president of her class, Perry worked in a hospital in Savannah, Georgia, as an oncology nurse for four years, gathering experience in the medical-surgical arena.

She said the superiority of her nursing education was evident there. When doctors needed a nurse who could act quickly, they called for her. "They would say, 'Put the Yankee on the phone.'"

"HCC was outstanding," she says. "I think that they really pushed us to a level that I think created really good critical thinking and organized nurses." *Ac*

Campaign co-chairs inspired to give



DR. KEVIN SNOW AND HIS WIFE, TERESA SNOW, R.N.

"It's a great thing. HCC turns out the most skilled people I've ever had the opportunity to work with."

When they were raising their four children, the talk around Kevin and Teresa Snow's dinner table tended to focus on bodily fluids and medical procedures, whether various judgment calls were good ones.

Kevin is a doctor of osteopathic medicine, and Teresa a nurse. They have worked in hospital settings in the region for almost 30 years—often together—and now they run Western Mass Physician Associates on the Holyoke Medical Center campus.

Their work is saving lives, and Kevin says, you can't help but take that home.

"It's not really a career," he says. "It's not like you just do it and go home and forget about it. You can't shut it off. It's a lifestyle."

Holyoke Community College marked the start of this lifestyle for the Snows, who both earned an associate degree in nursing here in 1984 and then got married and started a family. Five years ago, they were reunited with the college when their son Jerome enrolled, also to earn a nursing degree.

They were reminded of the gift that HCC was for each of them, and now, they are the co-chairs of the alumni division of the Building Healthy Communities Campaign, inspired to be a part of an effort that will bring state-of-the-art training equipment to the future Center for Health Education on Jarvis Avenue and the Center for Life Sciences in the Marieb building. And, they have made a generous gift to the campaign as well.

"It sounds like it's really going to be a great learning center with hands-on opportunities," Teresa says. "We didn't have all this stuff. We were trained in the hospitals (where we worked)."

"I think it's awesome," Kevin adds. "It's a great thing. HCC turns out the most skilled people I've ever had the opportunity to work with."

Teresa points out that anyone in the community can donate to the campaign. "Maybe you don't need to be a nurse, but someday, you will need a nurse, and you want the best nurse you can get. It would be a smart move," she says.

A healthy one too. *Ac*

—Janice Beetle



My father, Howard Greaney, was an English teacher in the Holyoke public school system for years and later an administrator. He now serves on the Holyoke School Committee. Even now, when I visit Holyoke, I'm often met with praise for him, comments, like, Mr. Greaney was such an awesome teacher; if it weren't for him, I might not have graduated. Over the years, it's meant so much to learn the impact my father had in the classroom.

My mother, Ellen Greaney, spent years caring for veterans at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home. In between shifts, she also spent many an hour caring for her four children and elderly parents, aunts and uncles. Her nursing career (and work toward an advanced degree) was cut short at 51, when she was diagnosed with brain cancer. Even though this forced her to become a patient herself, it never took away her spirit. With a lot of fight and very strong faith, as well as world-class science and incredible doctors at MGH's Brain Tumor Center in Boston, my mother beat the odds...and is still with us today, enjoying life.

Both my parents remain incredibly proud Holyokers, and they are proud alums of Holyoke Community College. On their recommendation years ago, I spent nearly two years at HCC –an incredibly transformative time in my young adult life. I went on to graduate from Mount Holyoke College and earn

my master's degree from UMass Boston. Yet, I credit HCC for opening my eyes to the value of public service, thereby setting the course for my career.

I will forever be grateful to my parents for encouraging me to choose Holyoke Community College and to the institution itself. I have made a pledge to the Building Healthy Communities Campaign to name a meeting area in the new Center for Health Education "in honor of Ellen M. O'Shea Greaney and Howard B. Greaney Jr." In doing so, I celebrate my parents' service to education and health care in the city of Holyoke.

Through giving, I also stand in strong support of Holyoke Community College, a place that, through academic opportunities and a strong sense of community, catalyzes promising futures.

With gratitude to the professors who taught me, and cheers to Building Healthy Communities,

*Maura E. Greaney, '93
Director of Development
Irish Arts Center
New York City*

“Hi, my name is
Martha Keochareon,
and I graduated from Holyoke
Community College nursing ...
I have cancer and I’m wondering
if you need somebody to do a
case study on a hospice patient
... Maybe some nurses just want
to feel what a tumor feels like...
Maybe you have some ambitious
student that wants to do a
project. Thank you. Bye.”

Final lessons

A nurse's ultimate gift

By Chris Yurko

She was Martha Pike back then, and in many ways a typical Holyoke Community College student. Late 30s. Single mom. She lived in Holyoke. Worked in a factory.

Nursing school, she would say years later, was the hardest thing she ever did.

She graduated in 1993, eager to work, grateful for the opportunity to be a nurse, grateful to her teachers and for everything she learned. She never forgot them, or HCC, even after she became a traveling nurse and moved south.

Years later, on Nov. 8, 2012, Martha – now Martha Keochareon – left a voice mail message at HCC that shook the corridors of the nursing school and whose effects will long be felt.

She'd called HCC Nursing Education Specialist Kelly Keane from the bedroom of her South Hadley home. She was dying from pancreatic cancer. In a voice as soft and thin as tissue paper, she suggested something extraordinary. She wanted HCC to send nursing students to her bedside, to examine her, to learn about cancer and hospice care, to talk.

In her last days, Martha Keochareon wanted to be a teacher. Those final lessons – her dying gift – have fundamentally altered the way nurses at HCC are being taught and what they will learn in the future.

The Call

After listening to the message, Keane met immediately with Kathy Hankel, the dean of Health and Natural Sciences. They agreed this was a remarkable, perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Keane visited Keochareon the next day.

"We chatted for a long time," said Keane. "She told me her whole story. She kept saying, 'When are the students coming?'"

Keochareon was understandably impatient. She'd lived more than six years with a disease that usually kills in months. She was waning now. Increasing doses of morphine, oxycodone and other drugs helped control her pain.

"When are the students coming?" she kept asking.

"We're working on it," Keane told her, worried Martha might die before any students arrived.

Dean Hankel worked on the legal aspects of such a project – liability, HIPPA, conflict of interest, confidentiality – while the faculty met to discuss candidates.

There was some initial reluctance – not because they didn't appreciate the value of Keochareon's gift – just that it was so unfamiliar. Students wouldn't study pancreatic cancer until the spring, some said. They hadn't yet taken a required class about death and dying. They weren't ready. It was the end of the semester. Students were occupied with clinical rotations, busy with lectures, preparing for finals. They didn't have time.

For weeks, Keane continued to visit. She sat by Martha's bedside, held her hand, read her books, talked about her life. She got to know family members and hospice nurses who faithfully attended her.

"Where are the students?" Martha asked.

"They're coming," Keane said.

The Students

They were both in the first semester of their first year in HCC's associate degree in nursing (R.N.) program. They were handpicked by their teachers and relieved of their clinical rotations for this new assignment. Michelle Elliot, 52, was already a licensed practical nurse working in an acute-care facility; Cindy Santiago, 26, was a certified nursing assistant whose father was sick with cancer.

"When they agreed to do this, I said, 'This is not going to be a seven to one clinical once or twice a week,'" said Keane. "I said, 'You're going to go as often as you can and then go to her wake and funeral and then speak about the experience and what you learned to your classmates.'"



The lessons came quickly. Keane made them research pancreatic cancer. The students learned right away Martha's case was not typical.

They studied her medical records, checked her vital signs. According to their textbooks, Keochareon should have been emaciated and unable to feed herself. Instead, "She had a lot of subcutaneous fat. She was feeding herself. She was alert, oriented," said Elliot. It was hard for them to believe she had cancer and was near death.

"That was the beauty of the assignment," said Keane. "It doesn't always match up. You can't assume about these diseases. Everyone is not a classic case."

They were curious about her initial diagnosis, why it took doctors two years to figure out she had cancer, how she had lived so long. Martha gave them advice. She talked to them about school, about being better nurses, about life. She loved to talk about her husband. That made her smile. Much of the time, the students just listened.

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- Acute changes in digestion

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“She wanted to teach us about the disease,” said Santiago, “and she also needed a friend to be by her side.”

Santiago learned to take her cues from the patient, even if it sometimes contradicted her classroom lessons. She was surprised on her first visit when Martha asked her to sit on her bed. In clinical settings, such as hospitals, Santiago knew, maintaining sterility is paramount. Sitting on a patient’s bed can introduce germs.

“At first, Cindy was like, I’m not supposed to,” Keane recalled. “I said, ‘It’s okay. Here, you can.’ In hospice care, the goal is to get close to the patient. Martha was trying to say, ‘It’s not about the textbook. It’s not about the disease. It’s not about the details and the minutiae of the medical world. Now you’re with someone who’s dying, and you’re sitting on the bed, and you’re holding their hand.’”

One morning, a few days before Christmas, Santiago was sitting on the edge of the bed when Martha said, “I’m ready to go.”

“I’m sorry,” Santiago said.

“Don’t feel sorry for me,” Martha replied. “I’m happy.”

That was their last visit. She died on Dec. 29. In the following weeks, as they had agreed, Elliot and Santiago accompanied Keane to the wake and funeral.

The New York Times

Martha’s story had come to the attention of the *New York Times*, which sent a reporter, photographer and videographer to her home and to HCC to document the visits and interview the participants.

“This whole entourage followed us around,” said Keane. “It was a little comical. Martha loved it, though.”

The idea for an article had been hers, another way to reach out, to teach.

On January 10, 2013, Martha’s story made the front page of the *Times*. Readers were clearly moved by writer Abby Goodnough’s piece, “As Nurse Lay Dying, Offering Herself as Instruction in Caring” and a companion video.

The story brought attention to the issues of end-of-life nursing education, hospice care and Holyoke Community College. The story also ran locally in *The Springfield Republican* and was picked up by the Associated Press and distributed internationally. Follow-up stories ran in *The Republican*, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, the *Greenfield Recorder*. Keane, Elliot and Santiago were interviewed for a story broadcast on New England Public Radio.

Martha’s Legacy

Part of the assignment required Elliot and Santiago to talk to HCC nursing classes about their experience, to take what they learned from Martha and pass it on to their classmates. But it’s gone beyond that.

Last spring, Keane, Elliot and Santiago were the keynote speakers at HCC’s annual alumni nursing supper. During National Nurses Week, Keane spoke about Martha to medical staff at South County Hospital in Wakefield, R.I. In November, Keane, Elliot, Santiago and Kathy





OPPOSITE: TOP, MARTHA KEOCHAREON, FRONT ROW, FIFTH FROM RIGHT, WITH FELLOW NURSING SCHOOL GRADUATES IN 1993. BOTTOM, LEFT, HCC STUDENTS MICHELLE ELLIOT, LEFT, AND CINDY SANTIAGO, RIGHT, WITH KELLY KEANE AT THE ANNUAL HCC NURSING ALUMNI SUPPER LAST SPRING. BOTTOM, RIGHT, MARTHA KEOCHAREON ACCEPTS HER DIPLOMA FROM HCC PRESIDENT DAVID BARTLEY IN 1993. ABOVE: ELLIOT, LEFT, AND SANTIAGO VISIT WITH ALUM MARTHA KEOCHAREON.

Hankel will go to Reno, Nevada, to give a presentation at the annual convention for the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing titled “Dying Nurse Offers Last Lesson in Compassionate Care and Legal Issues.”

Those lessons are also being incorporated directly into HCC’s nursing curriculum. HCC’s medical simulations, critical classes for nursing students in which computerized mannequins stand in for live patients, are now incorporating end-of-life care into the lesson plans.

Last spring, for the first time, Beacon Hospice gave a three-day course at HCC that resulted in all of HCC’s LPN students being certified as hospice care workers. The course required ten hours of volunteer work in a hospice setting in addition to clinical rotations.

The experience with Martha also demonstrated that clinical rotations themselves need not be so structured and scheduled. Instead of students in three clinical sections going to three different places from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. three days a week, nursing students last spring were doing rotations at 18 different sites, including acute care centers and nursing homes, not just in hospitals and health care centers on different days and times.

“One of the things we can take away from this is to actually break open our thoughts about what a clinical experience is and what it looks like and where it happens,” said HCC nursing instructor Professor Ian Camera.

Meet them where they’re at

It might seem obvious, but perhaps the most important lesson Martha passed on was that, to be a good nurse, you


really have to listen to your patient. “We never knew what we were going to find when we walked into her house,” said Keane. “Once we figured out where she was at, we went to that level. If she just wanted to sit and be quiet, we did. What she told us is, it’s important in all relationships. With your husband, your wife, your kids, students. Meet them where they’re at. Go to them and be in that place. I think that’s what we all learned.”

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In the end, Martha Keochareon wanted to be a teacher. A couple of weeks before Martha died, Keane and Kathy Hankel visited Keochareon at her home to present her with a certificate naming her an honorary member of the HCC nursing faculty. The faculty vote, never in doubt, had been unanimous.

“Wow,” she said. “Unanimous.”

Later that day, Keochareon called Kelly Keane and left another voice mail message on her office phone.

Thank you so much. This is one of the best days of my life. 

NEW CENTERS ON THE HORIZON

HCC readies for expansion

By CHRIS YURKO



Sometime next spring, demolition crews will start tearing apart the inside of 404 Jarvis Ave. The building, formerly the Grynn & Barrett photography studios, near the entrance to George Frost Drive, will eventually become Holyoke Community College's new Center for Health Education.

When the center opens, the occasion will mark the first physical expansion of the HCC campus since the school moved to Homestead Avenue in 1974—and one of the most ambitious projects in its history.

The Center for Health Education is just the first of a two-phase renovation whose cost is now estimated at about \$18 million. Moving HCC's nursing and radiologic technology programs to Jarvis Avenue will open up the first floor of the Marieb Building, which will then undergo its own transformation into the Center for Life Sciences. While plans are still preliminary, here is a brief overview of each:

PHASE I: THE CENTER FOR HEALTH EDUCATION

PROJECTED OPENING: FALL 2015

ESTIMATED COST: \$7.7 MILLION

WHAT WILL BE THERE? HCC's nursing programs: associate degree (registered nursing) and certificate (licensed practical nursing); radiologic technology; one class of Foundations of Health (Health 201 - Field Experience); and Medical Assisting (clinical/lab sections).

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE? Students, and prospective ones, will enter through an open, glass atrium. On one side will be a reception area, study

booths, student lounge, and food kiosk, on the other offices and advising areas for HCC's Nursing Success staff. Stairs and elevators will lead to the second floor, which will be used for faculty/staff offices, conference space and workrooms.

The rest of the first floor will be dedicated learning and classroom space.

Radiologic technology will have its own suite of rooms, including a designated classroom and X-ray area.

Key building features will be the low-fidelity and high-fidelity simulation labs. The low-fidelity lab will have two adjoining four-bed and six-bed rooms for use by nursing classes as well as Health 201, which includes CNA certification as part of the course, and Medical Assisting. The high-tech simulation lab will have six separate rooms, including two for maternal-child high-tech simulation mannequins and two for pediatric surgical mannequins.

All the classrooms and labs will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

There will be a large, 72-seat, divisible classroom that will double as a "community room," where nursing students will conduct blood pressure

screenings, immunization clinics and well-child screenings for local residents, from neighboring facilities such as Loomis House, Beaudoin Village and Sullivan Elementary School.

"We're going to be doing a lot of outreach, which we haven't been able to do because we don't have any room," said Kathy Hankel, dean of HCC's Health and Natural Sciences division.

The extra space will not only enable HCC to increase enrollment but also allow the school to contract with local hospitals and health care facilities who want to use the simulation labs for employee training. Hankel said she expects the building will be in use at hours beyond the traditional school day, from early morning until late evening and also weekends.

"If we are going to invest this kind of money in this type of facility, we want it to be used," said Bill Fogarty, vice president of finance and administration.

PHASE II: THE CENTER FOR LIFE SCIENCES

TENTATIVE OPENING: FALL 2016

ESTIMATED COST: \$10 MILLION

With the first floor of Marieb emptied, construction will begin immediately on the Center for Life Sciences. While the first floor is gutted and renovations proceed, teaching will continue on the upper floors. It is likely the building will be renovated in stages, from the bottom up.

"In some sense, this will be a more difficult project," said Fogarty.

When complete, the Center for Life Sciences will include dedicated space for the popular Foundations of Health program, as well as improved space for biology, environmental science, sustainability and the veterinary technician program.

One of the top priorities is upgrading Marieb's laboratories, which have remained largely unchanged since the early 1970s. The anatomy and physiology lab from the Frost building will be moved over and existing labs renovated for general biology, biotechnology and genetics, microbiology and environmental science.


The renovations will also include construction of a computer lab, refrigeration room, walk-in incubator, herbarium, office space for lab technicians, and seminar and conference rooms.

"We hope to have pods for student tutoring and study areas," said Hankel. "Now students sit on the floor in the hallway."

Perhaps the highlight will be the addition of a high-tech, sterile "clean room," the first in Western Mass to be available for use by students

as well as HCC's workforce training partners.

So far, HCC has secured a \$3.8 million grant from the Mass. Life Sciences Center for the work. The rest of the \$10 million estimated cost will be sought from industry partners, government grants, and private donations.

"We have a lot of work to do," said Fogarty. "Even though there are a lot of unknowns, I think there is a new level of excitement. Every department at HCC is committed to moving this project ahead as fast as we can and seeing it through to completion." 



OPPOSITE: THE FUTURE HOME OF HCC'S CENTER FOR HEALTH EDUCATION JARVIS AVENUE. THIS PAGE, TOP, KATHY HANKEL, DEAN OF HCC'S DIVISION OF HEALTH AND NATURAL SCIENCES, TALKS TO ARCHITECTS DESIGNING THE CENTER FOR HEALTH EDUCATION.

CLASS NOTEBOOK

1958

Donald J. Page was inducted into the 2013 Holyoke Catholic Athletic Hall of Fame for being a member of the school's undefeated football team.

1963

Howard B. Greaney is running for councilor at large in Holyoke. He had previously served the Holyoke Public Schools for 34 years as a teacher, department head and administrator. He has served on the Holyoke School Committee since 2007.

1974

Mark Runnals is a self-taught craftsman who has carved out a niche in the world of pottery. Using Jordan clay, a high-fire stoneware, Runnals creates wheel-thrown pieces that are decorative and fully functional, as well as food, dishwasher, and microwave safe. His recent collaboration with aluminum sculptor Victor Garcia has resulted in a unique line of pottery. Runnals' work is in collections throughout the United States and has been featured on "Crafters Coast To Coast," which aired on HGTV. Alumni are invited to visit: thevillagepotter.com.

1975

Carol Bright is a broker associate at Keller Williams Realty in Northampton, Mass. She helps families throughout the Pioneer Valley sell their properties and find the homes of their dreams. She'd love to hear from fellow alumni who are thinking of selling their homes or buying investment property. Contact her at (413) 585-0022 or carolbright@kw.com.

1979

Mark Stahelski, CPA, received his

bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology. He is a certified public accountant with Pieciak & Company, PC, in Brattleboro, Vermont. The firm handles tax returns for individuals, corporations, s-corporations, partnerships, nonprofits, estates, trusts, and does tax planning, compilations, reviews, and audits. Alumni can reach him at mstahelski@Pieciak.com or (802) 257-1307.

1983

Dianne Provost is the founder of Manners And More in West Springfield, Mass. Her business offers customized programs for teaching etiquette to children from four years of age all the way up through college. Programs include basic good manners, the art of conversation, personal presentation, table manners, interview coaching and resumes, www.mannersandmore.co.



1990

Anna Bozena Bowen is the author of the novel *HATTIE*. She came to HCC in April to read and talk about the book, which has earned numerous awards and accolades since its publication in September 2012 (www.annabozenabowen.com). Bowen was the first author to visit HCC at the invitation of the HCC Alumni Office, which is sponsoring a new Alumni Author series. *HATTIE* is available online at Amazon.com, bn.com and in local bookstores, including HCC's.

1994

Kaolin is the author of *Talking About Race, A Workbook About White People Fostering Racial Equality in Their Lives*. Alumni are invited to visit her website, www.itar.biz, where they can hear audio

and see video clips about her work.

1997

Patricia Woods, a certified global career development facilitator, offers free career counseling to HCC alumni on Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. at the Career Center in the



HCC Kittredge Center. Woods provides career assessments, planning and job placement, and assistance with resume, cover letter writing and interviews. Interested alumni can email her at pwoods@hcc.edu.

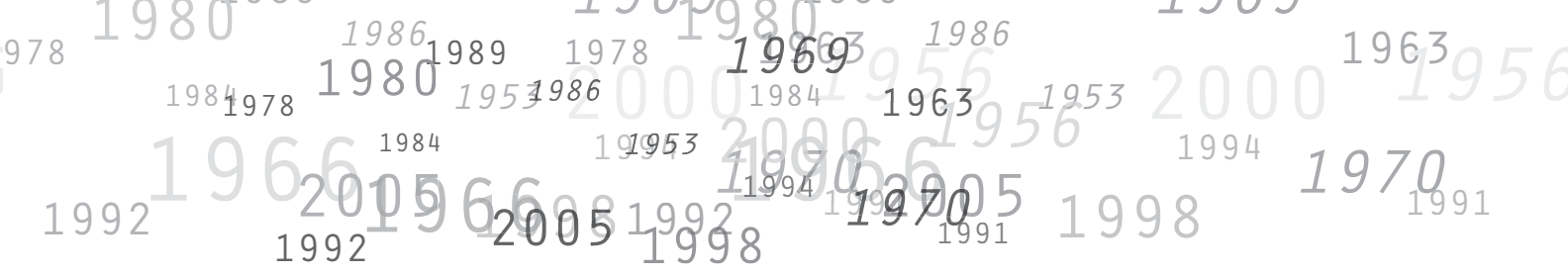
2000

David Thatcher has retired after working 50 years in radio and is now making use of his BFA from the Hartford Art School. He had a solo exhibition at the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn., in April 2013. The show was organized by Michael Yurges, the executive director of Artwell.

2004

Kimberly Yarbrough Carpenter earned her bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College in English in 2007 and a master's degree in liberal studies and a graduate certificate in African and African American Studies in May 2012 from Duke University. Her goal is to start a non-profit organization for women and children that would provide a safe place, have a resource library, and teach women skills to record and tell their stories. Interested alumni can reach her at kyarbroughcarpenter@icloud.com

Mychal Connelly, co-founder and co-owner of Stinky Cakes, spoke to HCC students in April 2013 about being an entrepreneur and about his business, which sells "cakes" created with layers



of disposable diapers, adorned with an array of goodies, and personalized with baby names. Alumni are invited to visit www.stinkycakes.com.

2006

Barbara Paulo was named a 2013 Leading Lady for Go Red for the town of Chicopee by the American Heart Association. Paulo, who owns Shear Xtreme Salon at 4 Old South St. in Northampton, Mass., came to the HCC campus on May 1 to participate in the Unity Club's Wigs for Kids Cut-a-Thon, which collects ponytails and money to create wigs for children being treated for cancer and other illnesses. Paulo has volunteered her services at the Wigs for Kids event for nine years.

2010

Matt Haley transferred from HCC to Hampshire College in 2010. His Division III concentration (senior thesis) at Hampshire was on economic inequality in higher education through the lens of theater. He served as theater intern while he was a student at Hampshire, coordinating students who participated in the Hampshire Fringe Festival. He is

now coordinator for Hampshire Youth Connect, which seeks to familiarize underserved youth with the college admissions process and inspire them to go to college. Alumni can call him at (413) 559-5359.

2010

Sheena Love is the founder and president of Treasure of Hope, a nonprofit organization that provides compassionate home care for disabled and elderly clients.



She has been a primary caregiver for her mother, worked in group homes for six years, and has opened her home to those with physical and mental conditions. Alumni are invited to visit thetreasureofhope.org or call her (413) 297-9799.

2011

Axel Cruz graduated from UMass-Amherst with a BA in theater and a 3.4 GPA. He is working on several theater projects including a physical

theater piece called "Blind Dreamers." He is looking to connect with HCC theater alumni who want to collaborate on the play "Rabbit Hole," by David Lindsay-Abaire. He can be reached at acruz121390@gmail.com.

2011

Crizaida L. Santiago is lead shelter case manager at New England Farm Workers' Council in Springfield. She works with three other case managers to help homeless families obtain housing, medical and educational services and employment to be self-sufficient.



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.

In Memoriam

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

- Albert L. Lafleur '48
- Kenneth H. Whalley '57
- Joyce R. Waite '72
- Helen G. Hagan '73
- John E. Kane '74
- Dino G. Ciocci '76
- James B. Knightly '77
- Mark R. Ahern '78

- William F. St. John '82
- Michael T. Fortier '84
- Edward J. Chmura '84
- Tina Lynn Chapman '87
- David A. Lepage '97
- John Hodges '97
- Kimberley J. Petcen '98
- Ellen M. Charbonneau '00

ALUMNI IN ACTION



Alumni recognized at awards dinner

Michael F. Kane, '90, and **Steven G. Richter, '75,** were the recipients of the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awards, which were presented at the 36th annual Alumni Award dinner June 13 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Kane is director of government relations for Columbia Gas of Massachusetts and a former state representative from Holyoke. Richter, of Southwick, is president and scientific director of Microtest Laboratories in Agawam, Mass.



Top, Kane, center, with Joanna Brown, left, director of HCC Alumni Relations, and Gloria G. Lomax '75, president of the HCC Alumni Association. Above, Richter, center, and his wife Tamara, with HCC President Bill Messner.



If the suit doesn't fit . . .

Gregory Dubreuil, '88, knew what to do when he lost weight and his suits no longer fit. He donated them to the Career Closet, located on the second floor of the HCC Kittredge Center. The Career Closet, a partnership between HCC and Providence Ministries for the Needy Inc., provides interview outfits for students who cannot afford business suits and other attire for job interviews. Dubreuil is controller at Appleton Corp. in Holyoke and also an adjunct faculty member at HCC in the division of science, business, engineering and technology.

Dubreuil, with Timothy Lynch, an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer who staffed the Career Closet in 2012-2013 and will be returning to HCC as a student this fall.

Alums honored for service

HCC presented Distinguished Service Awards to two alumni at Commencement June 1: **Greg Schneider '90,** of Longmeadow, co-founder and CEO of 3BL Media in Northampton, was honored for his nearly 10-year effort to establish an endowed scholarship in memory of the late Professor of Philosophy Miriam Sajkovic. **Lydia Petoskey, '03,** of Holyoke, a Springfield public school teacher, was honored for spearheading an initiative on campus to create a safer environment for everyone, including persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer.

Greg Schneider, left, and Lydia Petosky, right, with HCC President Bill Messner, top, and Gloria G. Lomax, '75, professor emeritus and president of the HCC Alumni Association.



Sworn in

Jennifer L. Wolowicz, '01, assistant town administrator for South Hadley, was sworn in March 18 by Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick in his office at the State House in Boston as a member of the board of directors for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, which oversees the operations of water and sewer services for 61 communities. A resident of Chicopee, Wolowicz also serves on the Chicopee Water Commission and is a member of the Chicopee Municipal Employees Credit Union board of directors.

Jennifer Wolowicz, right, with Gov. Deval Patrick.



A composite image. The top part shows a man with white hair, Jon Roe, wearing an orange jacket, smiling in front of Fenway Park. The bottom part shows a large scoreboard at Fenway Park with advertisements for Dunkin' Donuts and Ford. The scoreboard text reads: "THE RED SOX WISH GRETCHEN AND JON ROE A HAPPY 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!".

Feted at Fenway

Jon Roe, '76, and his wife, Gretchen, who live in Los Angeles, celebrated his 60th birthday and their 25th anniversary in June by attending his first-ever game at Fenway Park in a matchup between the Red Sox and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Their visit included a VIP tour of the stadium before the game and the gift of a surprise message on the giant replay screen above the right field stands.

Above, Jon stands atop the Green Monster.



Making fine art out of old stuff

Joyce Haynes, '69, found this addition while coordinating the cataloguing of fragments of sculpture in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts storage collection. Haynes, a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto, has worked as a research fellow in the museum's Art of the Ancient World division for 20 years, where she installed the Egyptian Funerary Arts Gallery. She has participated in excavations at the East Karnak Temple and in the Dakhleh Oasis in Egypt. She has also been a consultant curator to other museums and is the author of a several books on Ancient Egypt.

Joyce Haynes, '69, joins a segment to a colossal cobra sculpture made for Egyptian King Amenhotep III, 1390-1352 BC.

THE LAST WORD

Dear Alumni,

want to share my thoughts with you about alumni involvement.

HCC alumni participate in every aspect of this college, as faculty members, staff, volunteers and donors. We also elect an alumni member of the board of trustees, which makes a powerful statement about the importance of alumni at Holyoke Community College. We thank Joseph Wright, '54, for his years of service as our alumni trustee, and we welcome Lucy Perez, '87, as our new alumni trustee.

I invite each one of you to think about this place, the place that told you that you were somebody and ignited your dreams.

Wherever you are in your life and career journey, this is a time to think about how you can support the college that gave you your first start.

Becoming involved with our HCC Alumni

Association is a wonderful way to discover opportunities to share your talents and abilities.

Our HCC Alumni Association will focus our energy in the next two years in soliciting alumni donations for the Building Healthy Communities Campaign. Please act today and send your contribution with the form on page 3.

If you're not sure how you can be most helpful to our Alumni Association, call Joanna Brown or me at (413) 552-2253 and we will be glad to meet with you in person, talk to you on the phone, or arrange a Skype video call.

Sincerely,

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



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

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.

Can we have a few minutes of your time?



Holyoke Community College is blessed with one of the strongest and most committed alumni programs in the country. Among the nation's community colleges, our level of alumni involvement is unmatched.

You, our alumni, have always been responsive when called upon, as volunteers and donors.

What we need from you now is just a little bit of your time.

In the next few weeks, select alumni (previous donors and others at random) will receive an email message or postcard directing them to a web link for our first-ever alumni survey.

This will be your opportunity to tell us – anonymously – how HCC has impacted your life.

The survey will include just a few questions and should take just a few minutes to complete. But the project is very important and will help us better serve you, our current students and HCC.

We'll be sure to share the results in an upcoming edition of the Alumni Connection.

HCC Album



Out back, behind the concrete, mortar, and asphalt that make up most of the HCC campus, a leafy path leads through the trees.

Follow the yellow blazes. Those small, diamond signs mark miles of trails in these woods, some 35 acres once part of the farm from which this college was cut.

In the mid-1970s, Winston Lavalley, HCC professor of biology and environmental science, now retired, bushwhacked the trails and conceived a greater purpose for these woods as a natural, environmental laboratory. In 2002, President David Bartley formally dedicated the HCC Natural Refuge and Trail System, which remains an invaluable resource for students, teachers and nature lovers.

Identifiers at various points once described the ecological significance of the forest landscape, such as pillows and cradles (ancient scars of uprooted trees), the effects of fire, ecotone (biological transition areas) and succession. These signs have faded, but HCC clubs have recently been working to restore them as they also clean up and remark the trails.

From the main entrance on Campus Road, or another beside the

public safety building lot, you can spend hours exploring various loops and extensions—vernal pools, a hemlock dell, foot bridges, streams—where you might see evidence of various forest dwellers, including coyotes, fisher cats, black bears, even moose.

In one spot, a large boulder, called an erratic, balances precariously on bare rock, left alone long ago by a receding glacier. A high cliff ledge overlooks hundreds more acres of protected watershed land. A side route will take adventurers to the famous M&M Trail (Metacomet-Monadnock), which runs south to Connecticut and north to New Hampshire.

The low road opens onto a wider path, once the bed of a busy trolley line that shuttled workers back and forth between Westfield and the Holyoke mills, and is now somewhat less traveled.

“We’re very lucky,” Professor Lavalley said on a visit to HCC last fall. “Many schools don’t have places to study nature right next door. Here you go out the door, and you’re right there.”

And that can make a big difference. ♪

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Holyoke Community College Alumni Office

303 Homestead Avenue

Holyoke, MA 01040

www.hcc.edu

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2013 EVENTS

Wednesday, October 23

Midsemester Student Ensemble Concert

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leslie Phillips Theater, FPA Building.

To see the dates of the Wednesday morning music series throughout the semester or the ensemble concerts in December, check the HCC website www.hcc.edu and click on Events, or call (413) 552-2485 for more information.

Talking about Race

11:00 a.m. FPA 111 (formerly C building)

An HCC alumni author presentation and discussion by Kaolin '94. Co-sponsored by the HCC Alumni Association, the HCC Library, HCC Student Activities, and the the Council for Community, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Free and open to the public.

Thursday-Saturday, November 14-16, 21-23

The Foreigner

7:30 p.m. (Nov. 16 and 23 performances at 2:00 p.m.). Leslie Phillips Theater, FPA Building.

A play by Larry Shue, directed by Tom Geha and presented by the HCC Players. Charlie, a depressed man from Britain, is taken by his friend to a boarding home in Georgia. Fearing conversation, he pretends to be a "foreigner" to avoid speaking with the boarders. This only intrigues them and

soon everyone in the house wants to talk to him. Charlie overhears more than he should and is forced to make up a gibberish language, foil a devilish plot, and discover who he truly is. General admission: \$10; students/seniors \$8; \$5 for HCC students, faculty, staff with I.D.



Interpreted

"Silent Pizza" Nights (ASL only events) are held several times during the year.

ASL interpretation is available for most HCC events upon request. For more information, send an email to: csmalley@hcc.edu.

SPRING 2014

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

The Electronic Media Program will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in Spring 2014 with a gathering of alumni and showing of alumni media work. In addition, the program will be organizing a festival featuring the work of students and professionals working in Electronic Media. Interested alumni can contact Justin West at (413) 552-2525 or check www.hcc-cmta.org for updates.

The above is a partial list of events. To receive our monthly alumni e-newsletter listing additional events and news, go to <https://foundationalumni.hcc.edu> and register as a new user.