

Alumni Connection

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
FALL 2020



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020

An interview with new alumnus Marley Friedrich
The Perfect 13: HCC's valedictorians shine

ALSO INSIDE:

Scenes from the pandemic, stories and photos

'Together HCC,' a campaign for trying times

DEAR READERS



Christina Royal, Ph.D., HCC President

One of my first messages to the HCC community about the pandemic noted that “much about this new virus remains unknown.” Even after all we have learned since that time in early March that statement remains true. In fact, we’ll be grappling for some time with many questions, such as the timetable for developing a vaccine, the long-term impact on colleges and universities, and a roadmap toward a stronger region and economy.

That being said, it will come as no surprise that HCC has met the challenges of this unprecedented time with resilience, grit, innovation, and compassion. We recognized from the start that when it comes to charting a new path forward, the Commonwealth cannot recover

without us. Community colleges are vital economic engines, and so our work continues with the well-being of our people and students in mind. We also know that no matter how hard or uncomfortable the way forward may be, we will remain committed to fostering a culture that embraces our values of kindness, inclusion, and trust. We will live up to our mission — Educate. Inspire. Connect. — to create positive change and provide educational opportunities for all.

In this issue of the *Alumni Connection*, we chronicle this historic time in HCC’s history, set against the backdrop of faculty and staff who did transformative work to transition to remote teaching and, without missing a beat, continued to deliver the high-caliber academic experience and student services for which we’re known. Taking our middle name seriously, we also remained responsive to the needs of our greater community by delivering supplies and food and shifting workforce training online. Our alumni played a central role in these “Coronavirus Diaries” by taking part in our Together HCC campaign. Your gifts to the Student Emergency Fund and messages of support carried students through this challenging time and, quite literally, enabled them to remain on a path to achieving their educational and career goals.

We certainly are not letting the pandemic prevent us from acknowledging the achievements of our students. A virtual celebration was held on August 20 for the Class of 2020, where we showered them with messages of inspiration and welcomed them into the HCC alumni community. You can read stories of our students’ successes in the pages that follow and on the HCC website.

In times of crisis and significant challenge, some organizations crumble. Others flourish. Our collective resilience moved us to literally rebuild and reinvent ourselves from ashes when Holyoke Community College was burning in 1968. In 2021, HCC will mark its 75th anniversary. I am more confident than ever that we are ready to write this next chapter in our college’s history and, most importantly, see our students succeed. Because, throughout our history, we have demonstrated that when faced with adversity, we rise, transform, and indeed flourish.

Alumni Connection

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On the cover: Evan Gardner, a member of the graduating Class of 2020, tries on his cap and gown outside the Campus Center.

Some images in this issue were designed using resources from Freepik.com

HCC, the smart choice for me

By PAYTON NORTH '15

When I was a senior in high school, my parents and I made the decision that for my first two years of college I would attend HCC. I didn't have a strong desire to "leave the nest" yet, and, as my parents explained, there's a big price tag that comes with living on a college campus – never mind the cost of the education itself.

Though totally secure in my decision, I was shocked by some of the comments I heard from my peers.

"Your parents have money, don't they? Why would you go to community college?"

"Don't you get, like, straight A's? You're smart. Why would you go there?"

And my personal favorite – this one was said to me by someone I considered a friend at the time:

"Gross. I would rather die than go to community college."

Yikes. Needless to say, that "friend" and I didn't keep in touch after high school.

After I graduated from HCC with my associate degree in communications, I continued on to Western New England University for my bachelor's degree. People used to ask me if that transition was hard, because, they believed there must be an enormous difference between the level of education I received at HCC compared to WNEU.

Nope. No difference. The only difference I saw was the price tag.

At both schools I had strict professors and relaxed professors, some that required tons of homework and papers and others that relied on quizzes and tests. I saw a passion for teaching from my instructors at both schools, and both institutions stressed student success through their tutoring centers, career counselors, and more.

In fact, when I was at HCC, several of my professors there were also teaching part time at private colleges. I even had one professor who taught an online English course for HCC but was also a professor at Harvard University. I repeat – I was learning from a Harvard-level professor at the HCC cost.

If you haven't noticed where I'm going with this, I'm here to dispute the stigma that surrounds getting a community college education. I don't deny the wonderful experiences that come with going away to college – kids dream about decorating their dorm rooms, the parties, the new people they'll meet. For some, it's not just about dollars and cents. And that's fine – if you're not worried about the money.

Circling back to the comment from my peer who said, "You're smart, why would you go there?"

Well, sir – yes – I am smart. That's why I made the decision to go to HCC first.

You see, when I completed my bachelor's degree program in communications at WNEU, they didn't put an asterisk on my diploma with a caveat that said, "Payton North only attended WNEU for two years. She completed the first half of her degree at a" – gasp – "community college!"

In fact, my bachelor's degree looks and feels exactly like the ones that students who go away to college for four years receive on graduation day. It just cost significantly less for me to get mine.

Don't get me wrong – WNEU is home – it's "family" to me. I fell in love with the look and feel of that campus, the sense of community, and I have such fond memories



Payton North '15

there – memories so fond that that's where I decided to go for my master's degree. I'll sing that campus's praises until the day I die.

With that said, I will also sing the praises of the level of education I received at HCC until the day I die, too.

Payton North is the assistant managing editor for Reminder Publications. She lives in Monson, Mass. This piece was adapted from a longer version published in The Reminder on July 14, 2020, and used here with permission. You can read the original on the HCC website at hcc.edu/payton-north

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

HCC welcomes comments from readers. Contact us on social media, send an email to alumni@hcc.edu or mail a letter to us at Alumni Connection, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040. Please include your name, class year, home address and phone number.



‘This is breathtaking’

Gov. Charlie Baker, center, joins HCC president Christina Royal and others for a ribbon-cutting officially opening the renovated HCC Campus Center.

Gov. Charlie Baker helped celebrate the grand reopening of the HCC Campus Center on Friday, Feb. 28, touring the 66,000-foot building after its two-year \$43.5 million renovation, talking to students, and offering high praise for the finished product. "One of the things that makes space like this so important and precious is it gives young people a place to call their own," he said. "This is breathtaking." During remarks preceding a green-ribbon-cutting ceremony, Baker recalled the last time he had set foot inside – 2015 – and marveled

at the improvements. "The amount of light and open space it has now and the areas for collaborative thinking and engaging is astonishing," he said. "It speaks volumes about how important a space like this can be on a college campus, and it also speaks to one of our objectives, which is to take old space and make it new. This is one of the best examples I have seen anywhere in the Commonwealth."

To see before and after photos of the Campus Center renovation, go to: hcc.edu/then-and-now

IN BRIEF



Author, activist Loretta Ross packs house Guest speaker Loretta Ross, seated, shares a moment with HCC student and liberal arts major Melika Clark. Clark introduced the renowned human rights activist, author, and educator during a

Women’s History Month event at HCC March 11 before Ross delivered her presentation, “Calling In the Calling Out Culture,” to a packed house in the HCC Kittredge Center for more than an hour. “Don’t ever give a pass to oppression,” Ross said. “Learn how to handle it, and counter it, and neuter it.”

Stage Praise The HCC Theater Department earned three awards at the 2020 regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival: One in the category of "Theatre for Social Change" for its spring 2019 production of "Ugly Lies the Bone," and another for "Ensemble Work" for the fall 2019 production of the Thornton Wilder classic, "Our Town." Theater major Haley Thompson of Westfield won a performance award for her role in "Ugly Lies the Bone" as the mother of the main character, Jess, a war-scarred female soldier returning home. **Read more at hcc.edu/stage-praise**

Best Again For the seventh year in a row, HCC was voted the best two-year college in the Pioneer Valley by readers of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* in Northampton, Mass. The results of the Gazette’s 2020 Readers Choice awards were announced over the summer.

Presidential Honor President Christina Royal was elected by the D.C.-based Aspen Institute for its New Presidents Fellowship, a new initiative designed to support community college presidents in the early years of their tenure to accelerate change on behalf of students.

Commonwealth Heroine Tracey Whitfield, director of contract sales for HCC’s division of Business & Community Services and a city councilor in Springfield, Mass., was honored by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as a 2020 Commonwealth Heroine.

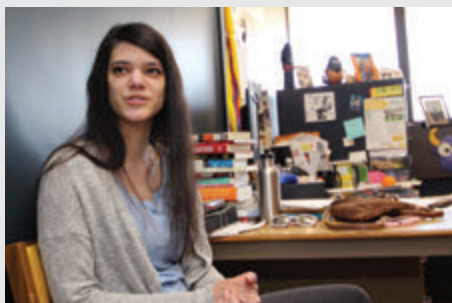
The Candy Man Can

Business administration major Levi Smith opened his second candy store at Holyoke's Ingleside Mall. The 19-year-old from Williamsburg, Mass., launched his career as a business owner in April 2019 when he purchased Captain Candy, an established novelty shop on the lower level of Thornes Marketplace in Northampton. "I've been interested in business my entire life," he said. "It's just something I've always been passionate about. My first job was cleaning horse stalls for my grandpa." Representatives from the Pyramid Management Group, owners of Ingleside, approached Smith in January, long before the pandemic exploded, about opening a second storefront in the mall. With the mall closed for three months this spring, Smith's original launch date of April 1 was pushed back to June. So far, he likes the second-floor location, right next to the Apple Store. "There's a lot of traffic," he said, "which is great."

HCC business major Levi Smith, in his new store at the Holyoke Mall.



IN BRIEF



From Plath to Perez

In March, liberal arts major Marissa Perez of Florence, Mass., was awarded the Glascock Poetry Prize, believed to be the oldest, intercollegiate poetry contest in the country. In doing so, Perez, 24, follows in the footsteps of some literary heavyweights, including poet Sylvia Plath, who won the Glascock Prize in 1955 when she was a student at Smith College. "This is a huge deal," said HCC English professor Carolyn Zaikowski, who nominated Perez. "The contest is considered a career starter, and it has never been won by a community college student before. I hope the academic writing community will get the clear message here – that community college students are amazing and talented and deserve to be taken seriously."

Read more at hcc.edu/poetry-prize



Dream Scholar HCC's Mayerlies Diaz of Westfield, Mass., was one of only eight students nationwide selected as "Dream Scholars" at the annual conference of Achieving the Dream, an organization that supports student success initiatives at community colleges across the U.S. The 17-year-old Gateway to College student delivered both a speech and a spoken word poem at the February conference in Maryland. Diaz completed Gateway, HCC's alternative high school program, with a college GPA of 4.0. She graduated from Westfield High School in June and is now enrolled full time at HCC.

Read more at hcc.edu/dream-scholar



Culinary Spark As an HCC culinary arts student, Nicole Ortiz '20, earned a first-place prize of \$2,500 from Holyoke SPARK's Entrepreneurship for All Initiative to start a food truck operation called Crave, serving healthy breakfast items to busy commuters. "This has been a dream of mine for a long time," the Holyoke resident said in February after being selected to participate in the EforAll program. "I've seen a need in my hometown for a wider variety of food options and I can't wait to do my best to bring some fresh, new options to my neighbors in Holyoke and Springfield." HCC business major Heather Reynolds Labonte took the second place with her idea to create an outdoor wedding venue in Granby. Ortiz and Labonte also received 2020 awards for their business ideas from the Grinspoon Entrepreneurship Initiative.

Read more at hcc.edu/grinspoon-2020

HCC's Coronavirus Diaries

Words and pictures by CHRIS YURKO



SHUTDOWN

Following Gov. Charlie Baker's March 23 stay-at-home advisory, HCC restricted campus buildings to everyone except essential personnel and others with limited permission during certain hours of the day. Pictured: Campus police officer Cameron Proserpi posts restricted access signs to a door of the Donahue Building.

During Spring Break 2020, when, like other college professors, she would typically have been relaxing at home or perhaps taking a well-deserved vacation to some exotic locale, Professor Leah Russell '90 instead spent long days on the fourth floor of the HCC Kittredge Center, conducting accounting lessons inside her empty classroom.

By then, HCC, like pretty much all other colleges across the country, had made the decision to go fully remote for the remainder of the spring semester. Russell decided to spend her time recording all her lectures and contemporaneous, handwritten notations using a device called a lumen, a kind of high-tech overhead projector that displays whatever she writes onto a screen.

Her plan was to let the students watch the lectures on YouTube and then spend her remote classroom sessions reviewing the material and answering questions.

"It was a lot of work, but it was worth it for them," she said one day. "I knew this wasn't going to be normal, so I wanted to get a head start."

What is normal now? Draw a big fat line on your calendars through the middle of March. In higher education, Spring Break 2020 will forever serve as a kind of dividing line. There is life as we knew it, before COVID-19 took over, and then there is this, what we have now.

While we don't know what the long-term future will look like, we can show you a few things we have seen during the last few months, and tell you a few tales you may not have heard, about the college during these pandemic days.

DONATIONS and DELIVERIES

U.S. Army National Guard troops from (top) the 1166th Transportation Company out of Worcester stopped by the HCC Campus Police station on March 27 to collect boxes of personal protection equipment the college donated for frontline workers in area hospitals battling the coronavirus pandemic.

HCC alumnus Mark Pronovost '80, director of Aramark/HCC Dining Services, (center) gets ready to haul a load of surplus food from the college to the Easthampton Community Center in April. The previous month, Pronovost delivered nearly 400 pounds of assorted produce, fruit and dairy products to the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Center, enough food, he was told, for 327 meals. "If we hadn't done this we would just been throwing all the food in the trash," said Pronovost. "It's impressive that HCC is willing to do this, and I'm very happy to do it."

The college donated about \$600 worth of produce, fruit, milk, eggs, butter, yogurt and cream from its Culinary Arts Institute to the YWCA Transitional Living Program in Holyoke. Pictured (bottom right): Sarah Schmidt, director of programming for HCC's Center for Excellence, left, and Stacy Graves, coordinator of the institute, load up a cargo van with produce.

READY TO GO REMOTE

Accounting professor Leah Russell '90 (below) demonstrates the lumen overhead projector she used to record her lessons for remote instruction.





ESSENTIAL SERVICES

(clockwise from top left)

You know it's a Wednesday if maintainer Walter Stevenson is wearing his "Hump Day" shirt. Stevenson and other members of the facilities staff have kept the campus clean and tidy while most members of the college community have been working from home.

The HCC Food Pantry, part of HCC's Thrive Student Resource Center (subject of a feature story in the Spring 2020 issue of the Alumni Connection), remained available to students who depend on it, even though the office was not open for in-person food pickups. Pictured: Thrive program assistant Elizabeth Rivera, prepares a Food Pantry order.

If COVID-19 has taught us anything it's that Zoom is not just a once-popular Boston-based children's television show with a mailing address in the 02134 zip code. Picture: President Christina Royal moderates a Zoom meeting from her campus office.

Early childhood education major Bryanna Rivera used to reserve Tuesdays for her online class, one of five she was taking in the spring. But without a computer at home, she would hole up for the day in the computer room on the third floor of the HCC library, where she would complete all her classwork for the week. COVID-19 put an end to that, as HCC computer rooms were closed and the campus restricted.

The HCC Library, though, continued to loan out Chromebooks and wifi hotspots to students like Rivera, who didn't have adequate internet access at home. During the spring semester the library boosted its inventory to nearly 200 Chromebooks and 125 hotspots that students could sign out for free for the duration of their classes. Pictured: Rivera of Chicopee picks up her Chromebook from the HCC Library. "I need this now for all my courses," she said in late March. "It's great to know I could come pick up a laptop. This is definitely going to help me at home."



MOVING FORWARD

Safely protected, Sue Mulry (top) prepares to accept returns of books, Chromebooks and wifi hotpots at the back entrance of the HCC Library.

HCC celebrated its newest class of nursing graduates with a virtual pinning ceremony May 28 after cheering them on in person during a drive-by event outside the Center for Health Education & Simulation two days before. Pictured (center right): Kayla MacDonald '20 of Chicopee picks up her pinning pack at the Center for Health Education & Simulation May 26.

As the COVID-19 case curve flattened in Massachusetts and restrictions were eased, students in health programs that require person-to-person contact were allowed to resume the clinical assessments required to complete their studies. Pictured (center left): Griffin Trase '20 of East Longmeadow takes a blood pressure reading from classmate Zeliyhna Pica '20 of Agawam. Both were students in HCC's Medical Assistant program.

In advance of HCC's Class of 2020 virtual celebration on Aug. 20, the college organized a series of pickup days for new graduates to come and get their caps and gowns. Pictured (right): Amaraya Deza '20 of Holyoke tries on her graduation cap outside the Campus Center, congratulated by Myriam Quinones, coordinator of HCC Multicultural Academic Services.






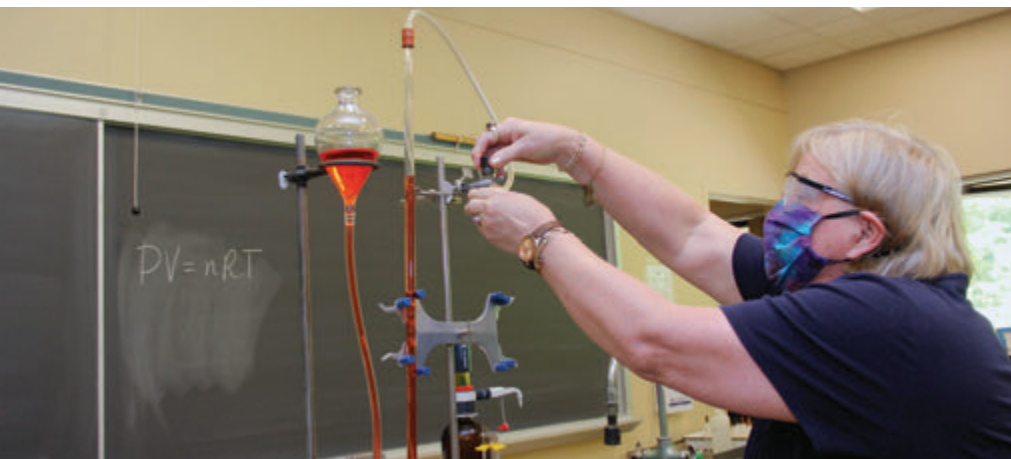
ON TO FALL

HCC was one of the first colleges in Massachusetts to announce plans to continue remote instruction for the fall 2020 semester. The advance notice meant professors had more time to prepare their lessons for fall than they had had in the spring. Pictured (top left): Environmental science professor Steve Winters examines a slab of shale he found during a summer tour around campus where he took photos of rock formations so he could create a virtual field trip for his geology students this fall.

Professors Diane Beers and Patricia Sandoval '84 keep in shape with one of their frequent walks around the campus road.

Environmental science professor Laurel Carpenter (center left) stopped by HCC one day to pick up supplies for her lakeside summer vacation, where she planned to collect water samples to use for her remote aquatics classes this fall.

Over the course of several summer days, chemistry professor Diane Stengle, (bottom left) with the help of her daughter, HCC professor Anne Stengle, videotaped a semester's worth of laboratory experiments for her students to study this fall. Pictured: Stengle conducts an experiment demonstrating the Ideal Gas Law, whose formula is written on the blackboard. 



Dining Out (and in), with the Andersons

When he was a hospitality management student at H working nights under his culinary arts professor, the late chef Leonard Marquis, at Storrowton Village and Carriage House in West Springfield, Michael Anderson '89 did not learn anything specifically that would guide him years later as a restaurateur weathering a pandemic.

But his classroom and kitchen training did foster at least one key ingredient that is helping him now: perseverance.

"I just keep going at it every day," said Anderson, who has owned Tucker's Restaurant in Southwick, Mass., for 21 years with his wife Karen '90.

"You just got to keep showing up, going in every day, and doing the best you can."

It's no secret how much COVID-19 has hobbled the restaurant industry, and pandemic relief funds may not be enough to sustain some businesses, according to one association group. Even though Tucker's received a federal loan in May through the Paycheck Protection Program, "We're in a pickle here," Anderson said.

He is, however, "cautiously optimistic" that they will pull through by adapting to the times and maintaining the quality for which they have been known, first at a smaller location on College Highway, and, since 2006, across the street in a larger space with a banquet facility.

"We've never cut corners at Tucker's, and I want to keep it that way," Anderson said one day during a break from the kitchen. "Every day I'm on the line. We're making stocks, making salad dressings, using fresh ingredients all the time."

Adapting meant switching to takeout on March 18, a day after Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker mandated that restaurants stop dine-in service. The Andersons made sure their customers knew through Facebook postings and signage that they could still order meals for curbside pickup.

The customers are "a big part of what's helping us get through it," said Karen, banquet and sales manager. "We have customers who generally care and want us to succeed."

When Massachusetts' reopening plan allowed for outdoor dining starting June 8, the Andersons rented a tent and put a couple of tables underneath. When indoor dining resumed June 22, they moved some tables into the banquet area and began serving diners in there as well.

Still, as of mid-July, only about 25 percent of customers were dining in. "I don't believe people are ready to come out now," Michael said.

Nevertheless, they keep the menu interesting with daily additions they advertise on their Facebook page, such as "Southwestern Orzo and Grilled Vegetable Bowl with Corn Pico, Cilantro Sour Cream and Shrimp."



Karen and Michael Anderson with their daughters Payton, left, and Paige, outside the family's Southwick Restaurant.

They also share memories there, such as one on July 16 for Karen's birthday that shows a photo of her blowing out candles from the previous year.

"Stop by for dinner or takeout this evening and wish Karen a happy birthday!" the caption says. "Look at the delicious cake made last year by Joanna!"

Michael and Karen met at Storrowton Village, where she was a hostess and he had worked his way up from dishwasher to executive chef. For a few years, he ran a catering business and then the kitchen at Yankee Candle's Chandler's Tavern in South Deerfield.

On his first resume, Michael stated that his goal was to own a restaurant. In 1999, when an old building went up for sale closer to their home in Westfield, he saw his chance. He named it Tucker's in honor of William "Tucker" Kavanaugh, the late owner of Storrowton and a mentor.

Meanwhile, Karen, a business administration major at HCC, had worked as a project manager at Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company for 18 years before taking over "front of the house" operations at the restaurant in its new location, scheduling and managing events and overseeing the dining room staff.

Their two daughters, Paige, 24, and Payton, 18, help out.

"This," said Karen, "is a family business."

— RONNI GORDON

In the Greenhouse, with Avery Maltz



Avery Maltz, HCC biology major and greenhouse caretaker.



The mud daubers – that’s a species of wasp – slip into the greenhouse through seams between the glass panes and build nests high inside. But that doesn’t trouble Avery Maltz:

“I don’t mind them at all,” he said. “They help pollinate, and they’re predatory, so they will eat other bugs.”

The insects that do concern him, though, are plant parasites. Left untreated, infestations from vermin like mealybugs and scale can kill in weeks.

“We have 350 individual plants in here,” says Maltz. “About 150 species, some of which are very delicate and sensitive, and some of which are critically endangered or vulnerable, so it’s

really important to take care of them. It’s a really important resource for the college.”

The HCC greenhouse is located on the third floor of the Marieb Building, right next to the botany lab. Maltz, a 32-year-old biology major from Northampton, has a part-time campus job as greenhouse assistant, though that title does not accurately reflect his role as the primary caretaker.

Maltz was one of just a handful of college workers designated as “essential” at the beginning of the pandemic and is perhaps the only HCC student who has been permitted regular access to campus buildings throughout. In the spring, Maltz spent about 18 hours a week in the greenhouse, watering, weeding, cleaning, fertilizing, pruning, and repotting.

“There’s a lot to do in here,” he said one April day. “Without the pruning and weeding and the pest control, it would just get really overgrown, and at the same time, a lot of it would be dead, and there would be lots of bugs everywhere slowly killing the plants that were still alive. It would be a very, very sad place. I think about it a lot. It’s a big worry of mine.”

Maltz, though, is determined to make sure it stays happy, and it shows. For anyone who might be interested about what life is like inside the greenhouse, Maltz provides frequent updates on his Facebook page (@AveryRaeMaltz), complete with photographs and videos.

If you go there, you’d learn that the greenhouse’s pineapple tree, *Ananas comosus*, produced a fruit this summer (“It smells absolutely incredible!!!” Maltz posted July 17. “It’s got to be almost ripe. I can’t wait to taste it!”) and that the cycad, which looks like a squat palm tree, grew a new set of fronds in a single week, that the Glory Bower is making a strong recovery and may flower again in the fall, and that an ailing lime tree has grown its first new branch. “It’ll take years for this tree to recover, but I’m just so glad that we didn’t lose it.”

During the spring semester, Maltz broadcast live reports on Facebook from the greenhouse, narrating tours and leading lessons on different aspects of greenhouse management, including sessions on plant propagation and another on endangered species.

“I get really excited about the greenhouse,” Maltz said. “I get really excited about plants and teaching people about plants and talking about plants. I knew a lot of people were just stuck at home and had to be in really stressful situations, so I figured it might be a fun thing to just share with people, and I have the time to do it.”

— CHRIS YURKO

Flattening the Curve, with Innocent Nwosu

As a young man in Nigeria, Innocent Nwosu worked for an organization called Hope Worldwide as an HIV counselor and program facilitator. As a volunteer and later as an employee, he conducted pre-test and post-test counseling and provided care and support to people with AIDS and their children.

“It was quite the pandemic,” he said, “quite widespread as you can imagine in many African countries, such as Nigeria.”

Fast forward to the present day. Nwosu, now 62, works in western Massachusetts for a nonprofit called Partners in Health, coordinating health care and deliveries of food, personal protection equipment and other essential items to people in quarantine due to COVID-19.

“I like to say I am part of the Massachusetts COVID care and contact tracing collaborative,” said Nwosu, who lives in Ludlow with his wife and their 3½-year-old son. “I want to proudly say I have been working on the situation we have here to flatten the curve.”

As a care resource coordinator, Nwosu consults directly with contact tracers to identify the basic needs of people who have tested positive for COVID-19.

“We work together to make sure their needs are met so they are not tempted to break quarantine or their isolation out of frustration, and they are encouraged to stay where they are and not infect other people,” he said.

Nwosu started with Partners in Health in May as the coronavirus outbreak was well underway, recommended for the job by staff from HCC’s Community Health Worker program, which he completed in 2019.

While his previous college studies focused on science – he has a master’s degree in zoology – Nwosu has always been drawn to community work, in particular programs that promote the relationship between good food and good health.

In western Massachusetts, where he has lived since 2010, Nwosu ran outreach and awareness campaigns for Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, which is based in South Deerfield. As a special projects coordinator, he worked with local farmers to supply fresh fruit and vegetables to low-income communities in Hampden County and with low-income

“It’s a heart issue. If you don’t really feel, empathize with people who need care, it’s not possible.”



Innocent Nwosu is a care resource coordinator for Partners in Health, working to control the spread of COVID-19.

individuals to make sure they used their food subsidies to buy more healthy produce.

When the grant funding for that position expired, Nwosu, on the recommendation of his wife, a nurse, enrolled in the CHW program at HCC, which was free, thanks to a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

“I am very grateful,” he said. “The training is quite good. They talk a lot about cultural humility. Being compassionate. It’s a heart issue. If you don’t really feel, empathize with people who need care, it’s not possible.”

For his practicum, part of the CHW training, Nwosu was posted to the Springfield Dept. of Health and Human Services, where he educated homeless individuals on how to address health issues such as diabetes through better nutrition.

He knows that his present position might not last. The more successful the effort is to control the virus, the less his services will be required. But that’s ok, he says.

“It’s fulfilling to see you can really help somebody,” Nwosu said. “If you are helping people to keep safe, you are also helping to keep yourself safe, because if you don’t help that person, somebody you know might get it, and they come and give it to you too.”

— CHRIS YURKO

In the Classroom, with Nathaniel Ferreira



Nate Ferreira '17 teaches first grade in Longmeadow.

“My time at HCC is something I’m very thankful for and just cherish and hold onto because it is such an amazing school.”

Career inspiration came early to Nate Ferreira. Fourth grade. Chapin Elementary School. Ludlow, Mass. The classroom of Mrs. Anecchiarico. The kids called her “Mrs. A.”

That winter, Ferreira and his mother had been involved in a bad sledding accident. She broke her back. Nate missed some school. “My mom was in the hospital for a long time,” he remembers. “I was quite shaken up and didn’t want to go back.”

He did, though, eventually. On the first day, Mrs. A pulled him aside. Take your time, she said. They worked out a secret signal, just in case.

“She was just open and super sweet and so comforting that I forgot about the stress that was going on in my life,” Ferreira said. “She was like a superhero to me. She made me feel like

everything was calm. I loved it, so right from that moment, I realized, this is the job for me. I always keep that memory in my mind.

Not a bad one to draw upon if you are a teacher whose first year in the classroom was disrupted by a global pandemic.

Ferreira teaches first grade at Center Elementary School in Longmeadow. He started in September 2019.

“Right when I was getting into the groove,” he said, “we had to go remote with everything.”

The 24-year-old from Ludlow graduated from HCC in 2017 with his associate degree in early education. Two years later, he completed his bachelor’s degree in early childhood education at Westfield State.

Online learning for first-graders was not part of either curriculum.

“It was an adjustment,” he said. “They’re little. They don’t know how to log into a computer. Most of my classes at HCC and Westfield were more hands-on, critical learning activities for the kids to do with manipulatives, so that’s why, when this whole thing started I was like, ok, we’ve all got to really step back and focus on what’s important.”

Large group lessons were not going to work, and finding a family friendly online platform proved key to relieving initial chaos. Ferreira and his colleagues settled on Padlet, which is like Pinterest for kids.

“You can upload a worksheet to print out, but then I wanted to meet with them face to face to talk through what they did and what they liked about the assignment, because that is more engaging,” he

said.

Besides Mrs. A, Ferreira said his HCC instructors “shaped the educator I want to be.”

“My time at HCC is something I’m very thankful for and just cherish and hold onto because it is such an amazing school,” he said. “I wish it could have been a four-year school.”

As of mid-summer, Ferreira was still not sure what his second year of teaching was going to look like this fall.

“I’m hoping that we’ll be in the classroom, but that comes with its challenges too,” he said. “Telling 6- and 7-year-olds to wear masks the whole time – you know how that’s going to play out. Whatever happens, I feel like, at the end of the day, we’re just gonna have to make it work and do the best we can.”

— CHRIS YURKO

Celebrating THE CLASS OF 2020

One of the casualties of the COVID-19 pandemic has been public recognitions for HCC's outstanding graduates. Besides Commencement, the granddaddy of all college recognition ceremonies, HCC had to cancel its annual academic honors and awards night and scholarship awards reception, as well as a series of smaller events that honor graduates of specific college programs, including Pathways, New Directions for Adult Learners, Multicultural Academic Services and STRIVE, though some events were still held remotely, over Zoom, such as the pinning ceremonies for graduates of HCC's nursing programs.

While the Class of 2020 was celebrated virtually Aug. 20 and will be invited to a traditional, in-person Commencement ceremony next spring (along with the Class of 2021), we also wanted to recognize some of our most successful graduates here in these pages, starting with Marley Friedrich, who was featured on the college website as one of the Class of 2020 Profiles of Excellence, from which this interview was adapted.

Q&A with a new alum: Marley Friedrich '20

On May 30, just days after completing his studies at HCC, on the exact day in fact that in an ordinary year he would have been celebrating Commencement with the Class of 2020 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Marley Friedrich joined a Black Lives Matter protest in downtown Amherst. That kind of engagement will surprise no one who knows him at HCC, where for two years he focused largely on matters related to racial equity and empowering marginalized groups.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, Marley served as student representative on the HCC Board of Trustees, where he co-chaired the Equity and Diversity Committee. As a student senator, he co-founded an initiative to create resource spaces and support networks for identity groups. He helped re-activate



the Rainbow Club (formerly the Queer-Straight Alliance), wrote a student handbook of campus resources for survivors of sexual abuse, worked in El Centro, home of HCC's Multicultural Academic Services program, and volunteered as a New Student Orientation leader, leading campus tours and helping to rewrite orientation materials to better serve low-income and first-generation college students.

That campus activism paralleled his academic success. He graduated in May with high honors and his associate degree in liberal arts. He now attends Amherst College, where he is studying sociology and studio art.

On top of that, he is the recipient of a 2020-2021 Newman Civic Fellowship from Campus Compact, a Boston-based nonprofit that promotes civic engagement in higher education. He was also HCC's choice for "29 Who Shine," a program sponsored by the Mass. Dept. of Higher Education that honors one student from each of the state's 29 public colleges and universities.

How are you feeling now that this strange and difficult semester is over?

I'm happy to be relaxing, but I am not completely relaxing because of George Floyd's death, so I'm going to protest and doing everything I can to support my friends of color. Scary times but happy to be done with the semester.

Why did you choose HCC to start your college career?

For a long time, I didn't think I was going to go to college. First off, I wasn't expecting my family to be able to afford it; additionally, I didn't think I was smart enough to be able to go to college because throughout my high school and lower education track I wasn't excelling and I was told I wasn't incredibly intelligent.

What changed?

As a high school senior, I was able to take an art class at Amherst College as a dual enrollment student, and it was truly amazing. The professor really trusted us as students, and for me that was a turning point. I realized I could be in academia and if I just worked hard enough and if I worked closely with my professors and took the time to acknowledge that I may not know everything, that there's still a lot I have to learn and am capable of learning. Something just sunk in, and I fell in love with academia.

What appealed to you about HCC?

I was working at a restaurant alongside an Amherst College student who had transferred there from HCC. He told me about the HCC Honors program and Learning Communities. I started asking him questions about how he got to Amherst College, and how I could get there, and HCC was just a reoccurring theme.

I had just graduated that May, and for almost the entire summer I thought I was going to Greenfield Community College. But at the last minute I decided to go to HCC, because of the Honors program, because of their phenomenal professors, and because of the Learning Communities. It was kind of exciting and scary, but HCC was well worth it.

What did you like best?

That's definitely a multipronged answer, but to begin with the people. The fact that HCC has a lot of professors of diverse identities who care so deeply about their students and about their work and have so much knowledge to offer.

The Learning Communities I can't praise enough. It's amazing being able to explore a subject through two different academic disciplines and see how they intersect. I feel like I've really been able to thrive in Learning Community environments because of the support and the intimate class size, and the themes are super interesting and applicable to real life.

I was able to learn that I could handle challenging course work and really deep academic material and succeed in that environment. I feel as though I am well prepared for life and for Amherst College.

You've been involved in quite a lot at HCC. What are you most proud about?

Honestly what I'm most proud about is the role I played as the student trustee. There was the instance where I was invited to speak to the Professional Association meeting as co-chair of the board's Equity and Diversity Committee. I'm very proud of the speech I gave, which focused on the value that staff and faculty of color bring to HCC as leaders, learners, and teachers.

What's the most important thing you learned at HCC?

The value of academic humility, of acknowledging that you don't know everything and you have a lot to learn from your peers and the faculty who are teaching you. But, also a component that I think we often forget is the ability to self-forgive, that you can revise your work and you should reach out to your professors when you don't understand something.

Did you have a favorite class?

My favorite was definitely an Honors colloquium I took last fall that focused on health inequities. That was "Un-Natural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" taught by Professor Vanessa Martinez.

That seems particularly timely, given the pandemic and how it has impacted poor communities and people of color.

I think that really speaks to why HCC courses are so enriching academically and in terms of our lives – because they are relevant. They're not distant or fragmented.

How do you feel about the way your final semester turned out?

Honestly, it was really challenging for me. I was lucky enough to be at home. My mom is head of our household, and she was able to support me and my siblings, which was definitely a big privilege. I was saddened I wasn't able to spend more time with my HCC peers, but, at the same time, I have peers who I love dearly who are going to be graduating in the Class of 2021. And now that I know we are going to be able to walk the stage with them I'm so excited. I know many people are sad that they can't cross the stage right now because a lot of them are first-generation college students, and this is such a huge accomplishment, for all of us. That's not to say that everything went perfectly. It's just to say that there were things that came out of this pandemic that I am grateful for.

THE PERFECT THIRTEEN

Olivia Lemire '20 of Florence dons a yellow ribbon and medallion that identifies her as an HCC valedictorian from the Class of 2020. Lemire received her graduation regalia during one of a series of special cap and gown pickup days held in July outside the HCC Campus Center.



A valedictorian is by definition the highest-ranking student in a graduating class. HCC does not rank students, so its valedictorians are all those graduates who have completed their associate degrees with a perfect GPA of 4.0. Designation as a valedictorian is HCC's highest academic honor.

Given that a typical HCC associate degree requires around 64 credits, an HCC valedictorian has to earn straight A's in at least 21 courses. Such an amazing feat requires an extraordinary combination of intelligence, concentration, endurance and sweat and deserves attention, so here they are, the Class of 2020's Perfect Thirteen:

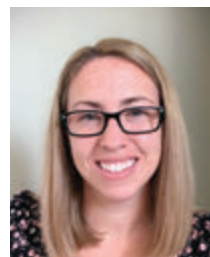


Aviella Abramchuk

From: Agawam

HCC Major: Business Administration

Now: Studying business at the Isenberg School of Management, University of Massachusetts Amherst



Kimberly Ann Binan

From: Westfield

HCC Major: Human Services

Now: Studying social work at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee



Michael V. Blazhkevich

From: Chicopee

HCC Major: Business Administration

Now: Studying finance at the Isenberg School of Management



Cate Boram

From: Holyoke
HCC Major: Communication, Media and Theater Arts Integrated Studies
Now: Studying theater and film at Smith College in Northampton, Mass.



Olivia Grace Lemire

From: Florence
HCC Major: Liberal Arts
Now: Taking a gap year while working as a zipline tour guide. Intends to transfer in 2021 to study anthropology and American Sign Language.



Elyse Kenna Dostie-Slavich

From: Northampton
HCC Major: Engineering Studies
Now: Studying electrical engineering at UMass Amherst



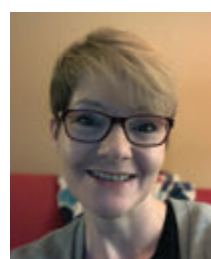
Patrick James Olszewsk

From: Shutesbury
HCC Major: Liberal Arts
Now: Studying English at Commonwealth Honors College, UMass Amherst



Milana Gurt

From: Chicopee
HCC Major: Liberal Arts
Now: Studying linguistics at UMass Amherst



Lucinda Enelda Seiffert

From: Granby
HCC Major: Foundations of Health
Now: Entering the workforce as a medical billing and coding specialist or another position in the medical field.



Scott Wallace Judd

From: Chesterfield
HCC Major: Environmental Science Field Technician
Now: Working as an environmental technician for ACT Eclipse in West Springfield, Mass.



Brandi Paige St. Romain

From: South Hadley
HCC Major: Biology
Now: Studying neuroscience and computer science at Smith College




Nicole Lehrfeld-Schlueter

From: Northampton
HCC Major: Liberal Arts
Now: Studying intercultural advocacy and administration through UMass Amherst's University Without Walls program



Nawar Saleh Tifour

From: Chicopee
HCC Major: Human Services
Now: Studying social work at Westfield State University, Westfield, Mass. 

A Campaign for Trying Times

‘Together HCC’ offers help, hope

BY CHRIS YURKO



HCC's Culinary Arts faculty posted this photo from the April 2018 grand opening of the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute to Facebook using the hashtag #TogetherHCC. "To our incredible students – We have your back! We will get through this together."

As announced on the back cover of the spring 2020 edition of this magazine, HCC had planned to conduct a one-day fundraising and social media campaign on April 28, 2020, based on the theme "Proud to be HCC."

The goal: to reach 303 new donors in 24 hours and collect stories of inspiration from HCC alumni, staff, faculty, friends and students.

At the time that campaign was conceived, however – back in February – no one had anticipated the pandemic and its devastating impact. As in so many other ways, COVID-19 forced HCC to pivot, and the 24-hour "Proud to be HCC" campaign was transformed into one that seemed more

relevant to the times: "Together HCC – A Campaign for Caring."

"Together HCC" launched on Monday, March 30, with twin goals – to raise money for the President's Student Emergency Fund and collect stories to motivate students and other members of the HCC community whose lives had been upended by COVID-19. In other words, everyone.

President Christina Royal led off, pledging \$10,000 of her own money as a challenge gift seeking 1,000 additional contributions of any kind toward the campaign, meaning either monetary donations or uplifting anecdotes and images shared on social media using the hashtag: #TogetherHCC.

HCC GIVING

"This is an unprecedented time in our history that can only be navigated if we work together," Royal said at the time. "Our campaign for caring enables members of our community to offer encouragement to one another and provide inspiration. The financial investment and kind words offered through this campaign are vitally important for our students' success and to the well-being of every member of our community."

The responses were indeed inspiring. To highlight just a few:

Alumnus Jonathan Mendez '15, '17, now a U.S. Army specialist stationed at Fort Polk, posted a video of himself on Facebook singing "Lean on Me."

Sheila Gould, a member of HCC's early education faculty, posted a video on YouTube offering advice for students and staff struggling with work and school while taking care of their children at home.

HCC student Susan Newman shared a photo of some of the 50 facemasks she sewed and donated to essential workers in the early days of the crisis.

"Like so many area residents, Holyoke Community College is part of the story of my life," Michelle Ducharme '87 wrote. "My aunt, Sr. Marita Callahan, was a long-time HCC faculty member who taught psychiatric nursing for 25 years. My two sisters and I all graduated from HCC. I associate my time at HCC with a bursting sense of possibility. It was a diverse, welcoming community, and I remain proud to be an alum of a college whose mission is to give everyone a chance."



U.S. Army specialist Jonathan Mendez '15, '17 sings the Star-Spangled Banner at HCC Commencement in 2019. This spring he shared a Facebook post of himself singing Lean on Me for the Together HCC campaign.

The importance of the monetary contributions to the campaign also cannot be overstated.

After COVID-19 broke, applications to the President's Student Emergency Fund soared. Through the HCC Foundation, President Royal established the fund in 2017 to help students facing critical and sudden financial

needs, which are typically related to basic needs, such as food, housing, childcare and transportation.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, which ended June 30, 97 percent of student requests to the emergency fund had come since mid-March. As HCC transitioned to remote learning, nearly \$25,000 has been distributed to help students facing income loss and those struggling to pay bills in the midst of the pandemic. The average distribution was doubled from \$500 to almost \$1,000.


"Studying and learning remotely has meant added and unanticipated expenses for our students. Faster internet, upgraded technology, housing and food costs, utility bills – seemingly simple shifts in daily life are easy to manage for some, but for many HCC students, they can derail their entire education," said Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation.

Through June 30, the Together HCC campaign had raised nearly \$40,000, with most of it – more than \$31,000 – earmarked for the emergency fund and the rest going toward the Thrive Student Resource Center, which operates the HCC Food Pantry, and HCC's general scholarship fund.

The largest single donation was \$20,000 from HCC alumna Margaret "Peg" Wendlandt '58 and her husband, Gary, who have supported the emergency fund regularly since it was established three years ago.

The rest of the contributions have come in average increments of about \$100 from more than 167 donors.

"This has been, and continues to be, a stressful and challenging time for everyone," Sbriscia said. "The COVID-19 crisis has turned the world upside down, and amidst this uncertainty, we still need to do everything we can to provide our students with the education and support they deserve. 'Together HCC' isn't just about providing financial support for them, it's also about providing moral support. Through this campaign, we wanted to let our students and other members of the college community know that it's going to be okay and that we are all in this together."

*Although the fundraising portion of the "Together HCC" campaign has closed, the spirit lives on. To contribute an inspiring image or photo, visit us on social media and leave a post using the hashtag **#TogetherHCC** or make a donation to the President's Student Emergency Fund at hcc.edu/donate *

CLASSES

NOTE-BOOK

What's going on in your life? We want to know what you've been up to since your school days at HCC. Send news of your wedding, retirement, promotion, travels, children/grandchildren, awards, academic achievements, military honors, whatever! Email news and photos to alumni@hcc.edu or mail us at the Alumni Connection, c/o Alumni Relations, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040. The deadline for the Spring 2020 publication is December 18, 2020.

1983

Wendy Meletes is teaching middle school in Surfside Beach, South Carolina. After graduating from HCC, Meletes earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in diagnostic reading from Westfield State University. She completed a second master's degree from Grand Canyon University and is now working on her Ph.D. at Grand Canyon.

1987

Holyoke native **Jeffrey Przekopowski** is the new chief of the Holyoke Fire Department, where he was worked for 29 years. He graduated from Holyoke Catholic High School in 1985, earned an associate degree in arts and science at HCC and a bachelor's degree in fire science from Anna Maria College.

1989

Chief Paul P. Madera, Jr. retired after 37 years with the Ludlow Police Department. After HCC, he received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Westfield State University and a master's degree in criminal justice administration from Western New England University. He also graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

1991



Susan A. Manewich attended the Women's Economic Forum in Egypt earlier this year. She joined more than 1,500 women business leaders from over 120 nations

in Cairo for workshops on employment, international trade, technology and finance. She is the founder and director of the Nui Foundation, which is dedicated to building an ethical business blueprint for the professional vetting, incubation, design, manufacture, and distribution of moral technology to communities across the world.

1992

Anthony A. Marini was named branch manager of BankHometown's Sturbridge location after serving as branch manager of its Oxford home office for more than a year. He has 15 years of banking experience and was a store manager for TD Bank prior to joining BankHometown in 2018. He holds an associate degree in retail management from HCC and a bachelor's degree in business management from Westfield State University.

1995

Michael Goodreau was ordained in August at St. Michaels Cathedral in Springfield. Reverend Goodreau grew up in Wilbraham where he graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School. After graduating from HCC with his associate degree in arts and science he transferred to the University of Massachusetts Amherst for his bachelor's degree in history. He is completing his priesthood studies at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass.

2003

William Lynch IV was named to *Business West's* list of 40 Under Forty for 2020. Lynch has worked for Stop and Shop since 1998, beginning as a bagger. He is currently the sales lead for Deli and Bakeshop for 138 stores in the company's central region. In 2015, he

was recognized as Specialist of the Year, an award Stop and Shop gives annually to a single individual who leads and develops teams and drives sales. In 2019, he was elected to the Easthampton City Council. He also serves on the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Race Committees and is active in the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA.

2004

Mychal Connolly, a member of *Business West* magazine's 40 Under Forty class of 2011, served as a judge for this year's 40 Under Forty awards. He is chapter chairman of SCORE Western Massachusetts, a nonprofit that gives free mentoring to people looking to start, grow, or exit a business, and author of the book, *Launch and Stand Out*, a guide for start-ups, and host of an accompanying podcast. In addition, he leads Hundred Grand Plan, a group that works with entrepreneurs and business owners looking to earn their first \$100,000. He was named one of America's Top 100 Urban Entrepreneurs and is also a 100 Men of Color honoree for his work in the community.

The Concord Police Department welcomed **Nathan Fisher** as a new patrol officer in February. Prior to the Concord PD, Fisher worked as an officer for the Charleston Police Department, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and as a corrections officer at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office. Fisher received his associate degree in criminal justice from HCC and was the recipient of the 2004 HCC Criminal Justice Club Leadership Recognition Award. He is a graduate of the Western Massachusetts Police Academy.



Andrea A. Luttrell was named to *Business West* magazine's 40 Under Forty list for 2020. As a registered dietician for Big Y Foods, she participates in more than 25 community presentations each

year, reaching more than 5,000 people annually offering nutrition and lifestyle advice. She also writes a Thursday food column for the Springfield Republican newspaper. She began her career with an associate degree in business administration from HCC followed by a bachelor's degree in human nutrition from UMass Amherst.



Meghan Maury is policy director at the National LGBTQ Task Force, which currently runs the Queer the Census Campaign. Her work spans a broad range of issue areas but focuses heavily on economic

justice, criminal justice, and data collection. After graduating from HCC, she went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from UMass and a law degree from Georgetown University Law School.

2008

Cindy Lacoste is an executive assistant/paralegal with Mestek, Inc. of Westfield. Before that she served for 38 years in the U.S. Navy with the Maritime Expeditionary Security Force Unit in support of Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection missions. She earned her associate degree from HCC in criminal justice and

continued on to Bay Path University for her bachelor's degree in business administration.

2015

Payton L. North is the assistant managing editor at Reminder Publishing. She has worked as a radio reporter for WAMC Northeast Public Radio. After HCC, where she received her associate degree in communications, she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in public relations, advertising and communication from Western New England University. She is also an active fundraiser for the Chron's and Colitis Foundation of America.



Patricia (Taylor)

Rodriguez is a human resources generalist at CNC Software in Tolland, Conn. After completing her associate degree from HCC in business administration,

Rodriguez earned her bachelor's degree at Southern New Hampshire University and attended Penn State University where she received a master's degree in human resources and employment relations.

2016

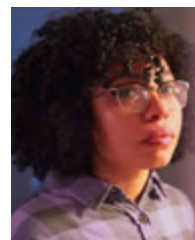


Brittany Bird, an HCC valedictorian from the Class of 2016, was promoted to senior associate by Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C. She earned the MBK Thought Leader 2019 Award for published

articles on behalf of the firm. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration

with a major in accounting from the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst.

2017



Forrest Evans is currently attending The New School in Brooklyn, New York, where she is enrolled in media studies with a concentration in film production. She has worked as a production assistant on the music

video Oprah by Rapsody and the public service announcement campaign, This is on Us, which can be seen on YouTube, and has also worked on several short films including "Brave Roberta." She studied creative writing at HCC.


2019

Joviana Rosario is an administrative assistant with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office working in the domestic violence/sexual assault unit. She earned a certificate at HCC in administrative professional studies.

2020



Eric Grigoryan is the owner of GrigCinema, a commercial filmmaking and videography company located in Agawam, Mass. Grigoryan has received awards from the United States Patent and

Trademark Office National Video Contest (first place) the Better Business Bureau National Video Contest (second). GrigCinema also hosts the YouTube series 'Job Flame,' a virtual job shadow highlighting different businesses in the region. 

In Memoriam

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

Sheri L. Falbo
Marlene Bannish '56
Donald L. Dostal '63
Thomas E. Maczka '68
Mona J. Roberts '68
Patrick J. Curran '70
Theodore A. Kapinos '71

Kenneth V. Packard '86
Joan L. Britton '88

George R. Gaudette, *retired faculty*
Martin Geraghty, *staff*
Constance A. D'Elia, *retired faculty*
Doris (Rathbun) Knight, *retired faculty*

Patricia A. Nelen, *retired staff and HCC Foundation Board member*

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

**HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

75th

1946 – 2021

1946 – 2021

Celebrating our 75th Anniversary

Holyoke Community College was founded on the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to receive an affordable and quality college education – everyone. For 75 years, HCC has been a place of opportunity, where, as George Frost, HCC's first president said, 'Everybody deserves a chance.'

– President Christina Royal

Ours is indeed a history of opportunity – one that shines with stories of students rising to new heights as a result of exceptional academics and relentless encouragement delivered by incredible faculty and staff, and made possible through the passionate support of our alumni, donors and friends.

Now is our opportunity to celebrate HCC's remarkable past and define our bright future. As part of our celebrations throughout 2021, we will be sharing the stories of alumni, faculty, staff, students and members of the communities we serve.

How has Holyoke Community College shaped your life? What are some of your fondest memories? What does HCC mean to you? Please share your stories with us so we can share all of those stories with you during our 75th anniversary year. Send an email at alumni@hcc.edu or a letter to Editor, Alumni Connection, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040.

2020-21 EVENTS

Conversations with Christina

A new event series for HCC alumni, hosted by President Royal and held via Zoom, featuring topics important to you, our students, and the future of Holyoke Community College. Interested in attending a conversation? Email alumni@hcc.edu.

Wednesday, September 9

Teaching, Learning, and Academic Excellence
3–4:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
10:30 a.m.–Noon

Monday, November 2

HCC Today
1–2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9

HCC in the Region
9 a.m.–10:30 p.m.



November 19-21

Fatal Fisticuffs – A Streaming Play by Tim Roché '16
7:30 p.m.

Audience members will be able to interact with the performance, directed by HCC theater professor Tim Cochran. Roughly 15 current theater students and alumni have participated in the development of this piece, including playwright Tom Roche '16 and Cory Missildine '13. Streaming platforms such

as Twitch and YouTube will be used. Visit hcc.edu/events for more details.

SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE

April 27, 2021

24-Hour Day of Giving: #TogetherHCC

Saturday, June 5, 2021

75th Anniversary Commencement – Classes of 2020 and 2021
10 a.m., MassMutual Center, Springfield, Mass.

Alumni Connection

Holyoke Community College Alumni Office

303 Homestead Avenue

Holyoke, MA 01040



/give2HCC

Talk to us!



facebook.com/Holyoke-CommunityCollege



twitter.com/HolyokeCC



holyocecc



@holyocecommunity-college



www.youtube.com/user/HolyokeCC

www.hcc.edu

Scenes from the Pandemic

Stories and photos, starting on [Page 4](#).

Students in HCC's Veterinary Technician class of 2020 demonstrate safe social

distancing during a June field trip to Legacy Farm in Easthampton.

