

# ALUMNI CONNECTION

SPRING 2010

## Getting to Green



**HOLYOKE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Futures Inspired

# Bill's Bulletin

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

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JoAnne L. Rome

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

**Design:**

Peter Hutchins, Litmus Designs

**Class Notes:**

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

**Letters:**

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

**Class Notes/Change of Address:**

Please submit the reply form on page 15, or call the Alumni Office (413) 552-2704.

**2009-2010 Alumni Council:**

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Nancy Spagnoli '83

Karen Thompson-Brown '04

Vandelyn T. Wright '83



HCC President William F. Messner

In 2007, I joined more than 600 other educators in signing the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, a document that commits member institutions to the achievement of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by mid-century. I invite you to read the text at [www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment). It is a blueprint for action, which HCC is embracing.

It's a tough time to make changes. Over the past few years, our state funding has been slashed by more than \$4 million. But, by using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, HCC has been able to make one-time investments that will have long-term benefits for the environment and our financial health, including:

- Approximately \$1 million to replace 40-year-old cooling towers with energy-efficient towers that operate on 50% less horsepower.
- More than \$90,000 in energy efficient lighting.
- A major upgrade of the HCC website to enable it to serve as the primary repository for information that has traditionally been printed and mailed.

Some of you may have heard of the Holyoke Community College Foundation, Inc. Roadway project. The goals of the project are to increase safety and reduce congestion on Homestead Avenue by creating a new entrance on Westfield Rd/Route 202.

The foundation is working closely with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Holyoke Conservation Commission (ConComm), and the City of Holyoke to produce an environmentally sensitive design that protects adjacent woodlands and vernal pools.

In addition to a commitment to green practices, HCC now offers both Sustainability Studies degree options and green workforce training opportunities. As you read this edition of the *Alumni Connection*, I think you'll see that HCC's commitment to this issue didn't begin yesterday—and stretches far into a future that will be made better by our efforts today.

I want to close by announcing a program beginning fall 2010 that will enable HCC students, staff, and alumni to earn a BA from Elms College, while fulfilling the majority of their degree requirements at HCC. There is a long history of collaboration between Elms and HCC, and we look forward to working together to provide a quality education that is convenient and affordable.

Sincerely,

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

William F. Messner

# Letter from the Alumni Relations Director

Dear alumni,

**T**his issue focuses on the theme of sustainability. In the 40 years since the first Earth Day in April 1970, many welcome changes have taken place. Until the "bottle bill" was passed in 1982, I always had to side-step broken glass on the shoulders of the road. These days, I rarely see broken glass on the roadside, as more people recycle glass bottles, paper, cardboard, metal, and plastic.

Other positive changes include:

- Families no longer burn garbage in open cans in back yards, as many once did.
- The Connecticut River and many others, are much cleaner than in decades past.
- More people are reducing their use of pesticides and herbicides.
- People are substituting low-energy fluorescent for high-energy incandescent bulbs.
- Local farmers' markets and community gardens are gaining in popularity.

There is still much to be done. How can YOU reduce your carbon footprint and help to slow the growth of greenhouse gases? Let me share some suggestions that I have gleaned from websites such as [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov), the Department of Energy site:

- Start by having a free home energy audit (in Massachusetts, visit [www.masssave.com](http://www.masssave.com) to get a free energy audit and see videos about money-saving energy conserving tips, or call (866) 527-7283. If you live outside of Massachusetts, call your local electric, gas, or utility company.
- Heating and cooling account for 45% of an average home's utility costs. Installing a programmable thermostat to customize heat settings during different time periods will result in a 10-15% reduction in heating/cooling costs (rebates for programmable thermostats are available in most states). If your furnace is 10 years old or older, consult with your fuel company to

find out how efficient it is. Substantial rebates are available this year for Energy Star rated furnaces and central air conditioning. Inexpensive rope caulk or weather stripping around windows and doors and foam gaskets behind electrical outlet plates will also reduce heating costs. Finally, be sure to check your furnace filter monthly.

- Lighting accounts for 15% of average utilities costs. Replace high-energy halogen or incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, which use one fifth the energy and last up to ten times longer.
- Water heating accounts for 13% of an average home's utility costs. Run your hot water until it is up to its highest temperature, then fill a glass with it and test it with a kitchen thermometer. The hot water temperature should be 120 degrees, maximum. If it is higher, turn down the temperature setting on your hot water heater. Also, install low-flow showerheads and run only full loads of laundry, preferably with cold water.
- Other ways to save energy (there are more on the [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov) site): 1) Cover pots when cooking and also when storing food in the refrigerator (uncovered, refrigerated food generates moisture, which makes the refrigerator compressor work harder). 2) Wash your dishes by hand, or run only a full dishwasher. 3) Hang out clothes to dry, or in winter, hang them indoors to generate needed moisture. 4) Use public transportation, ride-share, walk, or ride a bicycle. 5) If you drive, keep your tires properly inflated and engine tuned, and combine trips to minimize driving. 6) Close blinds and drapes to minimize heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. 7) Shut the doors and seal off heating and cooling ducts to unused rooms. 8) Experiment with wearing more layers of clothing and lowering your thermostat in the winter. In the summer, open a window or turn on a fan, rather than running the air conditioning. 9) Avoid automatic car-starters; an idling car gets zero mpg.



Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue and that you will find these hints helpful.

Sincerely,

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

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

# Getting to Green



**Heather Ruel** in her office at the U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife



**Eva Thomas** in front of the Palo Alto log cabin where she recently installed eco-friendly radiant floor heating, and a water heater that uses ambient air to heat her shower.



**Environmental expert Tom Orszack**

## Green Pioneers

**L**ong before “green jobs” were a recognized career track, HCC alums were staking their claims to eco-friendly futures—in business, government, and the arts. Recently, we asked some of these green pioneers how they turned their love of the environment into a sustainable career. While their paths were strikingly different, all of them share an ability to translate knowledge into action, and passion into purpose.

## Keeping Things Natural

As an HCC student, Eva Thomas, '73, never took a science class. Instead, the West Springfield native earned an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts and moved to California where she indulged in her passions for the outdoors, organic gardening, and natural cooking. All of these interests seem to converge when she bought her first home.

“When I started remodeling my own home, I brought it down to the studs, and I began experimenting with all of the ways I could recycle and reuse materials,” says Eva, now an environmental building consultant. “I found I could conserve money by conserving materials.”

Thomas learned her trade by consulting with experts and rolling up her sleeves. She built her next house, which had thermal insulated windows and a thermal siphoning system that kept it naturally cool. All lighting fixtures used eco-friendly CFL bulbs and were installed in locations that maximized their efficiency. Laundry water was used to hydrate the garden, and the specially designed plumbing system did away with the practice of running the hot water. The total electric bill for this 3000-square-foot home? About \$25 a month.

These days, Eva runs an environmental building consulting agency out of her home - a log cabin in the mountains above Palo Alto. While she helps her clients do eco-friendly renovations, she

continues to tweak her own abode. She recently installed a radiant floor heating system that uses water to heat the home. Another unit recaptures warmed air to heat the water for her shower. Both reduce her dependence on electricity.

“It’s what I love to do,” she says. “And, in a small way, it does reduce my carbon footprint.”

## A Changing Career

Growing up in Springfield, Tom Orszack '72, always thought it would be great to get a job “working in the outdoors.” That concept has changed considerably since he first arrived at HCC in the winter of 1970.

“At first, I thought I’d become a game warden,” says the retired Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection administrator. “Then I saw how much they made. I figured there’d have to be another agency where I could do some good work.”

Orszack found his launching pad in 1974, when he began working for the Springfield Conservation Commission. As the Environmental Specialist, he helped to enforce the newly promulgated Wetlands Protection Act, which protects certain lands from development.

“What attracted me then, and kept me in the field, was the fact that I was being paid to go out in the woods—urban or suburban—and work with people to see how things could work.”

In 1979 Orszack joined the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources (now the Department of Environmental Protection), where he worked for more than 20 years in a variety of positions. In some capacities, he worked mainly with government officials, private contractors, and the public, informing them of the requirements of environmental laws. At other times, he conducted inspections or gave expert testimony on an environmental issue. Throughout

his career, one thing remained constant however: the need to keep learning.

"There were always new trainings to keep you up on things," he said. "I went to Smoke School—where we had to calibrate our eyes to assess the smoke coming out of a smoke stack—and I went to Odor School, where you learned to recognize volatile organic compounds."

Retired for more than seven years, Orszack can finally enjoy the outdoors without studying it.

"But when I see my old (work) friends, I'm always curious what's happening with different projects," he says. "I can't help it."

## "Buying the dirt to save the critters"

Long walks in her childhood home of Stafford, CT made Heather Ruel a life-long nature lover.

"I used to get up before anyone else and go out fishing in the stream down the road," she says. "I'd have a piece of string, a safety pin, and a little bit of hot dog. I'd catch that fish, clean it, and we'd eat it for dinner."

Ruel continued to hike and explore the outdoors as an adult ("I know every inch of the Holyoke range," she says), but it wasn't until she was a married mother of three that she considered making a career change. That decision involved some risk.

"I'd never been successful at school—not since the third grade—so when I decided to go to HCC, I told myself I would take a class that I was really interested in," says Ruel, now a realty specialist with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. "And that class was environmental science."

Ruel's instincts were on the mark. After graduating from HCC 2001, she went on to earn a BA and a MA in Geography from UMass. She also became involved in her town's Conservation Commission and helped remove invasive plant species along the Connecticut River. These days, she helps the federal government acquire land that can be used for wildlife refuges.

*continues on page 8*



Photo: Dennis Hohenberger, papercitybuzz.com

**cut her political teeth on one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of the 1980s: a proposal to site a waste-to-energy incinerator in Holyoke. Concerned about the toxins the plant would deposit in the air and water, Pluta engaged in a massive public education campaign, eventually convincing officials to drop the project.**

"It wasn't my first foray into politics—I had been involved in fighting the closure of a neighborhood school, too—but it gave me a good idea about how the political process works," say Pluta, who earned her BA in political science from Mount Holyoke College. "I got comfortable in the political arena."

Fast forward 25 years and Elaine Pluta is still comfortable with the rough-and-tumble of public dialogue. She's had a lot of practice. In addition to working as an aide to Congressman John Olver, (D-Amherst), she has served on the Holyoke City Council, where constituent services are the name of the game. She's grateful to have that experience now, as she assumes the role of mayor in her hometown.

"I very much enjoy meeting with people and talking to them about the issues they care about," she says. "And environmental issues will always be important to Holyoke, where we have a natural resource—the dam—that allows us to make low-cost energy."

Pluta's confidence surprises no one—least of all, her fellow HCC alums. With her latest electoral victory, she joins a growing list of HCC alumni who have found their calling in the political arena, including two of her predecessors, Holyoke Mayors Michael Sullivan '77 and Danny Szostkiewicz '87, State Representative, Michael Kane '90, and former Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives (and HCC President), David M. Bartley '54. Several of them joined Pluta on November 30, 2009, when HCC officially feted Holyoke's first female mayor at a gala reception, held in the Kittredge Center.

"Elaine exemplifies what Holyoke Community College stands for," said David Bartley. "She showed the world that opportunity starts right here."

Congressman John Olver and Mayor Elaine Pluta at the Mayor's Inaugural Ball

## From Environmental Issues to City Politics, Holyoke's First Woman Mayor is Fearless

**H**olyoke Mayor Elaine Pluta, '92, is no newcomer to environmental issues. The HCC alumna and mother of three

# Around Campus

## From Bruised Knuckles to Smiles

### Renovation transforms OSDDS

Built before the Americans with Disabilities Act altered building codes, the complex of offices comprising HCC's Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services (OSDDS) was usable but not at all comfortable for the students it served.

"The doorframes were narrow for wheelchair users; we had lots of bruised knuckles and scraped wood" said Maureen Conroy, OSDDS director. "Because there wasn't enough room to turn a wheelchair around, leaving required backing straight out."

But after months of construction, the offices now feature extra-wide doorframes and entry spaces that enable a wheelchair to easily enter and turn around. Adjustable desks and round tables accommodate staff and visitors.

"I love it!" said student Justin Fernandes, demonstrating how neatly his wheelchair fit in the space alongside a bench

in the OSDDS waiting area. It's a simple accommodation that allows Fernandes to wait outside the flow of hallway traffic and interact with those sitting on the bench.

Budget considerations forced the project to be divided into two phases. With five offices renovated, the next phase will tackle four more, along with the Assistive Technology space. Conroy hopes that the project will inspire others to consider all members of the community when building or renovating space. "It's neither complicated nor expensive to make things work for everyone," she said.



Student Justin Fernandes chats with OSDDS Learning Specialist Debra Geoffroy outside the renovated OSDDS



## Honors Convocation

Raul Matta '07 (shown with professors Diane Beers (left) and Deborah Fairman (right), was the keynote speaker at Honors Convocation on October 12. A 2009 graduate of Hampshire College, Raul is an outreach worker for the Center for Education Prevention and Action in Holyoke. He was also featured in the January 8, 2010, issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, in a feature titled "Holyoke Community College Builds on its Transfer Tradition." Read the story at [www.chronicle.com/article/Holyoke-Community-College/49457/](http://www.chronicle.com/article/Holyoke-Community-College/49457/).

## HCC Alumni E-Publication Initiative Reply Form

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: HCC Alumni Office, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040 by June 30, 2010

## Care to Comment?

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

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

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

## LC noted in League for Innovation in CC



HCC's Learning Communities (LCs) were featured on the website of the League for Innovation in the Community College this past fall, in a story that emphasized the critical role they have played in leading the campus in innovation, collaboration, inclusion, and excellence in learning.

LCs are team taught, interdisciplinary courses that engage students in viewing a common theme through multiple lenses. For example, the LC "Counting Crime" incorporated "Basic Mathematics" and "Introduction to Criminal Justice." Students examined the intersection of race, crime, and justice, while also focusing on understanding and interpreting the numbers behind the research.

There is strong evidence that LCs help underprepared students prepare, prepared students advance, and advanced students excel.

## Media Arts Center Opens

A grand opening on October 28 gave the college the opportunity to show off its new Media Arts Center (MAC). Dedicated to instruction in electronic media and photography, it is the only place in Western Massachusetts where students can access sophisticated digital equipment and instruction without being in the major.

The 10,500 sq. foot facility includes specialized studios and classrooms dedicated to animation, game design, sound and video production, digital imaging, and photography. Digital and conventional photography are together under one roof, with labs dedicated to wet-process color and black and white photography, alternative photographic processes, and digital processing. A comfortable lounge is equipped with two large flat screen monitors displaying student work, and an interactive touch-screen kiosk for interactive multimedia.

A 60-seat black box performance space equipped with lighting, video projection, and sound system was put to good use by HCC alumnus Dan O'Neill '09 (pictured right), who created a riveting multimedia piece for the grand opening.



## Kittredge Grant Helps Musician Create More Than Music



Jeffrey Gilmartin accepts Kittredge Mini-Grant from adjunct faculty member Pam Baran '79

Second year student Jeffrey Gilmartin knew his idea to make highly-customized, yet affordable, guitar pedals had struck the right chord when he was named recipient of this year's Kittredge Mini-Grant.

Established by HCC alumnus Michael Kittredge '73, the \$500 annual award enables HCC's budding entrepreneurs to obtain further skills in their chosen field, attend conferences, or purchase materials needed to enhance their business.

Gilmartin said the \$500 will be used to make a prototype of a "boutique" guitar pedal, an electronic circuit board that connects the electric guitar and the amplifier to create unique sound effects and tones. Gilmartin said his pedal will combine an echo-like sound with a higher octave tone.

Although customized pedals are costly to purchase, Gilmartin said his goal is to develop a model that could be mass-produced at a lower cost, and still maintain the tonal integrity of a boutique pedal.

"I always wanted to go to the next step but couldn't afford to do it. Now I can," he said.

# Getting to Green

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"I help buy the dirt so we can save the critters," she quips. Then becoming serious, she adds "We protect the habitats for people, for wildlife, for plants, so we can all enjoy them."

On good days, the job involves site visits. She oversees properties from Virginia to the Canadian border. On bad days, well, Ruel doesn't really know if she has bad days.

"I became involved in land conservation because I realized that all of the places I love would disappear if I didn't," she says. "My job is to make sure that land is protected. I can't imagine doing anything else."

## Growing Green Jobs

If we train them, the demand will come

**H**olyoke Community College is not waiting for the economy to suddenly sprout leaves.

**Supported by state and federal grants, community partners, and burgeoning social awareness of the environment, HCC is training the next generation of green entrepreneurs, employers, and workers now.**

- The MassGREEN Institute: HCC has joined a statewide initiative that is creating a single, standardized, green job training program at each of the state's community colleges. Working with community partners we are training employers to develop green jobs like weatherization and energy auditing.
- The Pathways Out of Poverty grant allows HCC to give as many as 70 unemployed Holyoke and Springfield residents training that can lead directly to entry-level jobs. This grant allowed HCC to offer four-week training courses in weatherization, energy auditing, and insulation in fall 2009 and spring 2010.

- Working with local community group, Nuestras Raices, HCC is sponsoring a solar boiler technician training for Holyoke youth, ages 18 to 24. Participants gain a basic understanding of photovoltaic cells, rudimentary plumbing, and energy conservation—knowledge they can use on the job or in additional education. Future plans include English language classes that augment skill-based training in green careers.

"We can't predict what industries will take off, so the idea is to *teach green*—give people the basics—so they can get into entry-level jobs," says HCC's Vice President of Business and Community Service Jeffrey Hayden. "Some might use their skills in a new field we haven't yet contemplated. Others might decide to back up their training with more education. We want them to have options."

## In memoriam:

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

Robert Dana '49

Alfred W. Charbonneau '54

William T. Walker '54

John A. Trudeau '56

Edward J. Foley '57

Michael Penna '58

Eleanor A. Murray '63

Stanley J. Miles, Jr. '71

Allen C. Champagne '73

David J. Kosiol '73

Patrick E. Turner '74

Deborah M. Ferriter '75

Mary T. (Kennedy) Pope '75

Jeanne Y. Viens '75

Henry J. Hurteau '79

Carol A. (Bushey) Ottomaniello '79

James N. Sullivan '79

Victoria Denise Velez '81

Dorothy G. Aloisi '82

Kevin Baush '90

Liza L. Basile '91

Deanne E. Delisle '99

Genny Lyn St. Peter '06

Adam Washburn '06

Martin R. "Marty" Anderson,  
food service manager at HCC

Laurie M. Stevens,  
former ceramics instructor at HCC

Michael P. Szwed,  
retired professor of Economics  
and Finance

Benedict E. Tarnauskas,  
retired HCC staff



# Letter from the Alumni Association President

Dear Alumni,

**W**e are an Alumni Association that has already disproven the myth that community college alumni rarely give to community colleges.

Now, we are hard at work creating new possibilities. Our Alumni Association is beginning to play a major role in supporting the quality of education at Holyoke Community College. For example, an alumna has recently endowed a new scholarship fund, and two other alumni have endowed beautiful study areas in Donahue and Frost Buildings.

In a challenging economic time, such expressions of generosity are noteworthy.

Our annual fund dollars are just as important, because millions of dollars have been cut from our state higher education funding, while more and more students are turning to HCC.

By donating, you will be expressing your commitment to this college—the students, the faculty, and the staff. If you contribute your gift "in honor of" or "in memory of" a favorite professor, staff member, relative, or friend, your gift will not only make a

difference financially, but it will show the respect you have for someone very special to you.

One of our alumni said, "I give because attending HCC changed the course of my academic and personal life. Community colleges are the only institutions of higher learning dedicated to offering that opportunity to all who seek it."

I am counting on you to become part of this work. Please write your check today or go online to [www.hcc.edu/donate](http://www.hcc.edu/donate) so that we can deliver the support that Holyoke Community College needs and provide proof to all who doubt that community college alumni are passionate about supporting community colleges.

Sincerely,

Gloria G. Lomax '75

President, Holyoke Community College  
Alumni Association



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

The HCC Foundation 2009 Giving report is now online. To view it, please visit [www.hcc.edu](http://www.hcc.edu) and then click on "Alumni and Friends"

## 2010 HCC Annual Fund (closes June 30, 2010)

Enclosed is my contribution of:

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

I/we wish to contribute to the following fund:

**Where the need is greatest**

**Scholarship fund**

**Equipment for classrooms & labs**

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation year or years attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

My/our check is enclosed, payable to **HCC Foundation Inc.**, (2010 fund drive ends June 30, 2010)

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](http://hcc.edu/donate)**

**I wish to give anonymously. Please do not publish my name in the 2010 Annual Giving Report**

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

# Class Notes

## 1953

**Henry P. Monaghan** is Harlan Fiske Stone Professor of Constitutional Law at Columbia University. Monaghan was honored at a June 2009 symposium, "The View from the Curmudgeon's Lair." Monaghan's papers from that symposium were published in the March 2010 *Columbia Law Review*. In winter 2010, he introduced Attorney General of the United States Eric H. Holder, Jr. at an event in which Holder received the Medal for Excellence from Columbia University. Monaghan's recent article, "Supremacy Clause Fundamentalism," was published in the April 2010 *Columbia Law Review*.

## 1956

**Arthur G. LaMirande** grew up in South Hadley and played the organ in many area churches, serving as the interim organist at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield in fall 1999. The organist at St. John's Church in Elizabeth, NJ since October 2006, LaMirande currently resides in Manhattan. He is scheduled to perform on May 1, 2011, at St. Thomas Church in New York City, and during the 2011-2012 season at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

## 1963

**Howard B. Greaney** was successfully re-elected for his second consecutive term as member-at-large on the School Committee for Holyoke Public Schools.

## 1966

**Norene Roberts** is an historical consultant to the Massachusetts International Festival for the arts (MIFA), which is spearheading the rehabilitation of the Victory Theater in Holyoke. Roberts is writing a nomination to place the theater on the National Register of Historic Places. Those interested in restoring the Victory Theater can email: info@mifafestival.org.

## 1969

**Wayne Cordes** is president of Tech Fab, Inc., of South Hadley, MA, a precision metal fabricating business. Their products include customized CNC machining, laser cutting, robotic welding, and precision forming and

bending. Alumni who are purchasing agents are welcome to call him at (413) 532-9022.

**Robert Coulter** and his wife enjoy life in a retirement community in Texas. Lots of social and educational activities keep them busy, and, although retired, they are substitute teachers in the local school district and seasonally employed with the IRS. They especially appreciate Texas in January and February, when they don't have to shovel the driveway or scrape the car.

**Bill Harris** was honored in June 2009, with his second Emmy Award for Best News Anchor from the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of TV Arts and Sciences. Bill and son Christopher also received two Emmy nominations for a series of first-hand reports documenting Bill's 2008 prostate cancer diagnosis, surgery, and recovery. In January, Bill was inducted into the Michigan Associated Press Broadcast Journalism Hall of Fame.

## 1970

**Gary R. Wolpert** is attending college for the fifth time. After graduating from HCC, he earned BA, MS, and MBA degrees. He is currently studying diagnostic medical sonography at Fox Business Institute in West Hartford, CT. He has been an adjunct professor at Westfield State College, a vice president of international marketing and sales for a technical company (annually logging 100 days of international travel), and has five patents to his name.

## 1971

**David L. Dupont**, currently the principal at Holyoke High School, will assume a new position on July 1 as superintendent of the Holyoke Public Schools. He received his BA in American History from UMass and his MA in Administration from Westfield State College. He has been the principal at Peck Jr. High School, Lynch Jr. High School, and Dean Technical High School. He also held the position of director of operations at the Holyoke School Department.

## 1972

**Victor Kamont** is majoring in Addiction Studies and Photojournalism at Pierce College in Woodland Hills, CA. He won second place for News Photo of the Year, the award for Best Cub (new) Photographer, the Editor's Choice Award, and the John Gallo Scholarship. Next semester, he will be the chief photographer for the college newspaper, and serve on the *Bull Magazine* staff. Alumni may listen to his online show "Happy Hour" at kpcradio.com, or contact him at (310) 924-9144 or kpcradio.com.

## 1973

**Peter G. Warren** left telecom after 20 years as an electrical engineer. Already possessing an MS in Electrical Engineering from UMass, he earned an MS in Bioinformatics from Brandeis University in 2004, worked two internships in biotech, and assumed a full-time position at Wyeth in 2006. Warren writes, "I've always appreciated the start that HCC gave me... That experience, including the generous and warm-hearted attention of several great teachers there, helped me to build my confidence (which was pretty low at the time), so that I was able to go on to Amherst College, from which I graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1975."

## 1975



**Michael D. Kubic** is senior vice president, corporate controller, and chief accounting officer at Alliance Data Systems in Texas. Prior to joining

Alliance, Kubic served as vice president of finance for Kevco, Inc. and vice president and corporate controller for BancTec, Inc. Kubic holds a BA from UMass and is a CPA in the State of Texas.

**Watson B. Laughton** recommends alums visit the Library of Congress and the Post Office Museum in Washington, D.C. He says that the Library of Congress will "rock

your world," with its huge collection of mini-museums on every topic imaginable. The George and Ira Gershwin room was particularly of interest to him because he loves music.

## 1978

**Alex Sajkovic** serves on the executive committee of PioneerValleyLocalFirst.org, a group of business owners who encourage Pioneer Valley citizens to buy locally. The group is committed to meeting the energy, food, housing, transportation, and other community needs in ways that are locally sustainable. Sajkovic's business, ASN Stone, located at 518 Pleasant St., Northampton, sells stone and does full installation on residential and commercial projects. Please visit [www.asnstone.com](http://www.asnstone.com) or call Sajkovic at (413) 586-5180.

**James Schelfhaudt** is a photographer living in Cape Neddick, ME. He earned an AS from HCC, and a BA in English from the UMass. Originally drawn to black and white photography, Schelfhaudt has embraced digital photography for the added dimensions of color, convenience, creative control, and wide latitude for error. Alumni are invited to visit his website at [www.compasspointgallery.com](http://www.compasspointgallery.com).

**Bruce Zimmerman** earned his BA in music from the University of Miami in 1981, his Master of Music from the University of Hawaii in 1984, and his Doctor of Musical Arts from the Hartt School of Music in 1986. Bruce is composer and owner of Sound Productions, a film scoring project studio in Windsor, CT, where for more than 17 years he has composed music for Saturday Night Live, PBS, FOX Network, and Warner Brothers, among others. He has won three EMMY Awards (New England Region) for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Original Music Composition for his work in public television.

## 1983

**Paul J. Hohenberger** is associate director of development at the College of Engineering at UMass Amherst and an elected member

of the UMass Amherst Alumni Board. He resides in Boston and loves living in St. Gregory's Parish in Dorchester.

## 1984

**Cynthia A. Bishop** is business development manager/vice president at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in northern Virginia. Bishop, who plans to retire this year, returns to Western MA to see relatives and friends and research her family's history in the Holyoke History Room, currently housed in the HCC Library. She traveled to Scotland in 2009 with the New England Historical Genealogical Society (NEHGS) to conduct research on her great-grandparents, who emigrated from Scotland to Holyoke in the late 1800s.

## 1985

**Laurie Beauchemin** received her Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Family Nursing from Frontier School of Midwifery in Hyden, KY in October 2009. She has been a perinatal nurse at BayState Medical Center for 21 years. She is grateful for the scholarship she received from the HCC Alumni Association during her graduate program.

## 1986

**Cleveland Burton** retired from Lenox/American Saw, a division of Newell Rubbermaid, where he had worked for 36 years. He is on the board of directors and executive committee of the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, and serves as chair of its Youth Council of Hampden County. He is a member of the HCC Alumni Council and is also on the executive board of Putnam Advisory Council, which will be breaking ground this fall to build a new high school by 2012.

## 1987

**Peter Tallman** was recently re-elected for his sixth term as City Councilor-at-large in Holyoke. He has been a member of the Air National Guard for 19 years, and is a tech sergeant with the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, stationed at Barnes Airport in Westfield, MA.

## 1988

**Barbara Lamirande-Smith** completed her BSN from UMass in 1999 and her MEd in Occupational Education from Westfield State College in spring 2010. She teaches at Dean Technical High School in Holyoke.

**Lisa Napiorkowski** has been named assistant director of the Council on Aging at the Senior Center in South Hadley, MA. An administrative secretary to the South Hadley town administrator for many years, she has worked for the Town of South Hadley since 1988.

## 1989

**Eugene (Gene) Black** is completing his bachelor's degree at the University Without Walls at UMass, Amherst. Certified to work with people with autism and Asperger Syndrome, he currently works in residential settings, public schools, and community agencies.

## 1990

**Carol Lawson** received her BS from Western New England College in 2007 after taking 17 years to complete her degree one course at a time. She has had six of her creative poems published by two different publishing houses and has done freelance reporting and photography for the *Chicopee Register*.

**Gregory S. Schneider** is co-founder of 3BL Media. 3BL stands for Triple Bottom Line—People Planet Profit. Schneider's company creates and distributes news and content about corporate social responsibility, sustainability, and cause marketing for businesses and non-profit organizations. The company uses blogs, videos, podcasts, press releases, email, Twitter, Facebook, and other Web 2.0 technologies to reach and influence people. Alumni are invited to visit [3blmedia.com](http://3blmedia.com)

**Aaron M. Vega** was elected to the Holyoke City Council in November 2009. After HCC, he earned dual bachelor degrees in Psychology and Theater/Film from Keene State College. He worked with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns

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# Class Notes

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for four years and has had films air on PBS, HBO, TLC, and at international film festivals. He is currently working on a documentary for the Media Education Foundation in Northampton, MA. Alumni can see his clips at [www.vegaclips.com](http://www.vegaclips.com). Vega and his wife, Debra, own a yoga and dance studio at Open Square in Holyoke, MA. Alumni are invited to visit the studio or [www.vegayoga.com](http://www.vegayoga.com).

## 1991

**June S. Henneman** took a class at HCC in 1988 at age 70. She enjoyed it so much that she kept coming back to take more classes. Gail Indyk (retired director of adult support programs) convinced her to get her degree, which she earned with honors at age 73. Interested in history, reading, and traveling, she has been to Europe ten times, and just returned from Hawaii. Her granddaughter in London gives her a good reason to visit. June lives on the land in Belchertown that her great-great grandfather bought in 1790.

## 1993



**Rebecca Davis** graduated from American International College in 1995 with a BSBA. In 2003 she received her MBA in

Accounting from the University of Phoenix-Cleveland. She will be an adjunct faculty member in fall 2010 at Phoenix University in Ohio. Becky is currently vice president of the National Association of Black Accountants, Cleveland Chapter, a member of the Cleveland Black MBA Association, and a mentor for college students entering the accounting field. She participated in a 150-mile Bike Ride Campaign for Multiple Sclerosis. Though living in Ohio, she still considers Greenfield, MA home.

**Maura E. Greaney** is director of development at The Doe Fund, a non-

profit organization that provides paid employment and training to homeless and formerly incarcerated men. She received her MAP in public administration from UMass Boston in 2002.

## 1994

**Yvette Weldon Cammock** received a MM from Cambridge College in 2004. She is education coordinator for The Key Program at the Department of Children and Families in the Holyoke office, where she manages the educational needs of children in intensive foster or residential care.

## 1997

**Robin MacRostie** is owner of [choreographicdesign.com](http://choreographicdesign.com) in Amherst, MA, a graphic design business that uses images to create graphic representations of businesses that can be used in marketing, online and offline. She works with local and national clients to design logos, websites, newsletters, business stationery, and promotional materials. Alumni are invited to visit her website or contact her at (413) 549-6403 or [rmacr@choreographicdesign.com](mailto:rmacr@choreographicdesign.com)

## 1998

**Wendy Wright** is the new human resource and development administrator at the Carson Center For Human Services. She had previously been the director of human resources and development officer at Abilities Unlimited, which merged with the Carson Center. She graduated from Smith College in 2000, with a major in Governmental Studies and minor in Psychology.

## 2000



**Jacqueline Lozada** received her BA in Business Management at Westfield State College in 2004. She is the Office Systems Technology

Instructor at Holyoke Works, teaches classes in Microsoft Office products, and offers World of Work workshops, including customer service, time management, and communications.

## 2004



**Edna M. Alvarado** is a parent educator/mentor/coach under a five-year Healthy Marriage federal grant program, working at Holyoke/

Chicopee/Springfield Head Start, Inc. She received her BA in Human Services/Counseling from the University Without Walls at UMass Amherst. Her son, Jordan Rivera, is a first year student in HCC's Criminal Justice Program.

## 2005



**Susan Hall** graduated from Wellesley College in June 2009. Selected to go abroad in January 2007 as part of a "History and

Culture in Jamaica" winter session, she discovered Children and Community for Change (3Cs), for which she designed and was awarded a Susan G. Knafel '52 International Internship that took her to 3Cs as a camp administrator the following summer. She has researched and given presentations on aspects of Hurricane Katrina, including post-disaster environmental justice issues. She currently works for the Boston Public Schools as a substitute teacher and is creating a tutor program for low achieving students.

## 2006

**Lynne Marie Wanamaker** was selected to bring her "Compassionate Conditioning"

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## Study Area Dedicated



At a reception celebrating the beautiful new study area on the second floor of Donahue Building that Margaret A. McCarthy '78 donated in memory of their brother, Lt. Joseph J. McCarthy '70, a former member of the Holyoke Police Department, are (right to left) McCarthy, her sister, Ann Marie Nawolski, and Nawolski's daughter, Peg Kelley.

## 2009 Volunteer of the Year Honored



Annette Davis-Harris '04, recipient of the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award, was feted by HCC faculty, staff, students, family and friends during the Alumni Summer Celebration on June 17, 2009. Davis-Harris, founder of the "Waiting to Excel" student club, now known as "Unity Club," graduated from UMass and plans to continue her work in human services. Pictured: seated, James Sliski, president of Unity Club; standing from left: Professor Jackie Griswold, honoree Annette Davis-Harris, Senior Programs Coordinator Dorothy Blair, Learning Specialist Wayne Nelson, and Assistive Technology Specialist Robert Baran '94.

## Distinguished Alumni

On June 4, 2009, nearly 150 business persons and friends attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner. Presented with our 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award are, from left: Steven M. Mitus '80 and Moria E. Mitus '93, and on the far right, Gregory R. Dubreuil '88. Second from right is Nadine A. Dubreuil '85, spouse of Gregory Dubreuil.



## HCC Goes South for the Winter

In January 2010, Vice President of Institutional Development Erica Broman joined a gathering of retired HCC faculty and staff in Florida. Seated from left are: Erica Broman, Dr. David M. Bartley '54, and Bette Bartley. Standing from left are: Dr. Elaine Ironfield, Dr. Toby Tamarkin, retired CT State Senator Thomas Dowd, Dr. Elaine Marieb '80, Harvey Howell, Victor Thomas, Lois Donohue, and Eve Thomas.



## Media Arts Center



Alumni Association President Gloria Lomax, Professor Pat Sandoval '87, and retired professor Jeanne Hatch took in the October grand opening of HCC's new Media Arts Center.

## Beauty in the Urban Landscape



Art enthusiasts flocked to the Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke to view the work of Caleb Colon '06 during his October 2009

exhibit. On Colon's canvases, the brick factories, canals, and streets of Holyoke and the region sing with life and color.

## AV Equipment Honors Memory of Dance Instructor

Members of Troupe Sahibat gathered on June 25, 2009, to present their donation of an LCD projector, DVD playback unit and portable projection screen to the dance studio at the Bartley Center, in memory of Rose Champagne Superneau '99, former dance instructor at HCC.



Pictured, from left: Gloria G. Lomax '75, HCC Alumni Association president; Lori McCarthy; Melinda Thomas; Jackie Champagne (Rose's mother); Sue Zielenski; and Karen Ferroni. (Troupe member Robin Rieske was unable to be present).

## Broadcasting with Alumni Support

Alumni contributions funded the purchase of new audio equipment for two recording studios in the WCCH radio station.

Pictured with some of the new equipment are (from left): Kevin Renaud '11, Ricky MacPhail '11, Jaclyn "Miss Jay" Quesnel '10, and Jim Fogarty, adjunct faculty member.



# Alumni Letter



**M**y love of the outdoors began when I joined the outdoor club at Holyoke Community College.

**I have wonderful memories of being with great people on adventures hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, rock climbing, white water rafting, and caving. It has been well over 30 years since then, but enjoying the outdoors remains a significant part of my life. When my husband and I moved to our small New Hampshire town (population 2,200) fifteen years ago, I felt lucky to be in a rural place surrounded by forest and wildlife and be able to hike outside my door, without having to drive to get to trails.**

Our town had conservation land along the Purgatory Brook Watershed, but most of the land was not protected from development. Like many small New England towns, ours began to have “growing pains” as “McMansions” began to spring up. I felt we had to do something to preserve this unique place before it was too late, but thought, “What can one person do?” I contacted conservation groups in my area to see if they could help. Most said there wasn’t much you could do unless you had money to buy land or got landowners to donate property for conservation. I decided to begin a volunteer group to try to raise money to save our beautiful forests and watershed. I got together like-minded people in my town and we began meeting to put our ideas together.

I enlisted the help of the New England Forestry Foundation in Littleton, Massachusetts, who sent a Land Protection Specialist to help us develop a plan to save our watershed area. When a 78-acre parcel of forest became available for sale in our neighborhood, I wrote the landowner and asked if he would consider working with us.

Months went by until I received a phone call from the landowner. My neighbors and I agreed to try to raise the money to purchase the land and if we were successful, New England Forestry Foundation would own and manage the land and permanently protect it from development. We had under a year to raise the money, or it would go on the market.

We sold t-shirts, held raffles, flea markets, yard sales, and concerts at local coffee houses, and attended parades, holiday fairs and pancake breakfasts. My husband and I wrote grants to foundations and organizations near and far. We received a check for \$5,000 from Paul Newman’s charitable foundation! The Nadeau Forest, named after the landowner, was purchased in 2004 and is now permanently protected by the New England Forestry Foundation.

Shortly afterward, I was asked to join my town’s Conservation Commission, where I have been instrumental in helping secure another 250 acres of forest and undeveloped land along the watershed abutting Nadeau Forest. In 2008, we learned that 250 acres would soon be auctioned for about \$500,000. With only 10 days and \$100,000 in our Town Conservation Fund, I called a local land trust. After much discussion, they were able to find an anonymous donor willing to put up the money to temporarily buy the property and call off the auction. We were given two years to raise the money to purchase the land, otherwise it would be sold for development.

Within one year, I helped the Conservation Commission raise much of the money to purchase the land. We went to the local Rotary Club, churches, schools, businesses,

and held many fund raisers. Again, my husband and I wrote grants and obtained funding for the project. We then asked the citizens of our town to vote to fund the balance. The town voted overwhelmingly to purchase the land. We now have over 500 acres of conservation land protected forever in our watershed, including two miles of frontage along Purgatory Brook with a waterfall and scenic views of North Pack, Pack Monadnock, and Temple Mountains.

Each year, our town votes for a “Grand Marshall,” a citizen who has made a significant contribution to the town. I had the great honor to be elected Grand Marshal that year for my volunteer work in conservation. If there is a place in your neighborhood or town that you love, don’t be afraid to try to protect and save it for the next generation. I have learned that one person cannot do it all by themselves, but one person can make a difference.

Joanne G. Draghetti '76



## We Love Letters!

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

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

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fitness and martial arts program to the National Women's Martial Arts Federation (NWMAF). Wanamaker, a member of the teaching team at Valley Women's Martial Arts in Easthampton, holds black belts in two styles of Okinawan karate and is a certified personal fitness trainer working with private clients. Visit [www.compassionateconditioning.com](http://www.compassionateconditioning.com) or call her at (413) 527-8317.

## 2007

**Jorge Mora** was among the first dual-enrolled students at Chicopee High School and HCC. He enlisted in the Army in

September 2009 and will be stationed at Westover Air Force Reserve Base.

## 2008

**Alejandro Ramirez** attended HCC in the fall 2007 and spring 2008 semesters, then continued at Bristol Community College until summer 2009. He studied at Patten University and received his minister's license in June 2009 and his Endorsed Community Service Chaplain credentials in August 2009. Now pastor of the Third Church of God in New Bedford, MA, he may be reached at (508) 674-5690 or [alejandroramirez2002@yahoo.com](mailto:alejandroramirez2002@yahoo.com).

**Abigael Marie Sicard** is a graduate of the New England Center for Cosmetology & Esthetics Education. A licensed cosmetologist and owner of Absolute Salon & Day Spa in Sunderland, contact her at (413) 397-9988 or visit [www.abbsofutesalon.com](http://www.abbsofutesalon.com).

## 2009

**Kathleen M. Scholpp** passed her exam and is now a certified Pharmacy Technician. She has completed her externship in both Institutional and Community Pharmacy.

## Class Notes/Change of Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class year: \_\_\_\_\_

Former name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Comments to the director of alumni relations (will not be published).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Please return this form to:  
Alumni Office, HCC, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040,  
fax to (413) 552-2479, or email to [jbrown@hcc.edu](mailto:jbrown@hcc.edu)  
with subject line of "HCC Notes" by June 1, 2010.

# ALUMNI CONNECTION

Holyoke Community College Alumni Office  
303 Homestead Avenue  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
[www.hcc.edu](http://www.hcc.edu)

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Affordable 20 Month Bachelor's Programs  
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## Earn a BA from Elms College at HCC!

A new partnership between HCC and Elms College now makes it possible for you to take classes at HCC and earn your BA from Elms.

Starting in fall 2010, Psychology and Business (accounting and management) degrees will be offered, with English and Early Childhood Education to follow in 2011.

Classes will be held on the HCC campus on Friday evenings and Saturdays to accommodate working adults. Financial aid is available! Priority registration deadline is July 16, 2010. Want to learn more? Info sessions will be held at HCC on Tuesday, May 25, 4:30-6:30 p.m. and at Elms on June 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

For details, contact the Elms College Division of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education at (413) 265-2490 or email [mccarryj@elms.edu](mailto:mccarryj@elms.edu).

## Spring Events

**Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m.**

**Commencement** will be under a tent on the HCC soccer field. Ticket holders admitted first; the public may attend on a space-available basis.

**Tuesday, June 8, 5-9 p.m.**

**Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner**, honoring Kay Althoff '82 and Danny Eaton '74. Please join us as we honor two alumni who have been instrumental in building communities involving HCC alumni: Kay Althoff has directed the Frances Perkins Program at Mount Holyoke College for more than 20 years, and Danny Eaton is founder and producing artistic director of the Majestic Theater in West Springfield, MA. Registration required by Friday, May 21 at 4 p.m. Please call (413) 552-2704 to request an invitation, or register online at [www.hcc.edu](http://www.hcc.edu) (click on "Alumni and Friends").

**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
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