

ALUMNI CONNECTION

SPRING 2011

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Futures Inspired

From Paper City to High Performance Computing Center

Two new high-tech initiatives—and an innovative city leadership team—are transforming Holyoke

PLUS:
Living a Vision for Holyoke
Back to the Beginning
HCC Expands Access to Education



BILL'S BULLETIN



HCC President William F. Messner

If you live in the area or have stayed abreast of the changes taking place, you know that Holyoke is undergoing a renaissance. Rich cultural and natural resources, and a climate that fosters creativity and opportunity, are attracting businesses, entrepreneurs, and artists to Holyoke. The Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center, Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center, and Cisco's Smart + Connected Communities initiative are part of a wave of change that will transform the city and the region.

HCC's collaboration with its Juntos partners at the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center (PAFEC) in downtown Holyoke is currently serving more than 350 students through classes in basic literacy, GED preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages, a Transition to College and Careers program, workforce training, and more. We expect more than 1,000 students will be served by the close of 2011, and 120-150 to continue their education at HCC.

I'd like to provide an example of the quality of education the students are receiving at PAFEC. Thanks to the technology available at the center, an adult literacy class studying science and astronomy was able to experience a live video presentation by Richard Morency, a NASA engineer from Houston. Richard spoke to the class in detail about his work on robotics and space suit design. Appearing in person in the class was Dan Barry, a NASA astronaut who lives in Western Massachusetts. The students had viewed photos of the space station, but Dan had been there, and brought it to life by describing his experience. He also shared the many years of rejections that preceded his acceptance into the space program. As you might imagine, the evening had a profound impact on the students.

This is just one class and one example of what happens daily at a place that has become a center of activity and a popular location for civic and community functions. Plans are being made for a coffee shop, office space for Five Colleges, Inc., and a community technology center that would provide basic technology literacy, computer classes, and career readiness certification.

As HCC alumni, you understand the power of education to transform. I know you will share my pride in HCC's role in the transformation and revitalization of this diverse and vibrant city.

Sincerely,

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

William F. Messner

Main Cover Photo:

Holyoke canal, courtesy Dennis Hohenberger '87

Bottom row, l-r:

Holyoke Farmer's Market, courtesy Chuck Murphy-Ramboletti

The HCC contingent at the 2008 Holyoke Puerto Rican Day parade. From left: Carmelina Romano '08, Jacqueline Lozada '00, Yaritza Pizarro '08, and Angelica Maria Correa '08.

Holyoke Canal Walk, courtesy Dennis Hohenberger '87

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

Letters:

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

Class Notes/Change of Address:

Please submit the reply form on page 10, or call the Alumni Office (413) 552-2253.

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Dear alumni,

Like many of you reading this issue of the *Alumni Connection*, I have memories of "Holyoke past": shopping for shoes in Child's Shoe store; buying my first 45 rpm vinyl record in Grant's Department Store; and visiting Mountain Park. My father worked in the mills of Holyoke, and I can still remember the smell of "Pakkawood" being machined and polished in the factory where he was a toolmaker.

Some of you reading this letter have not been back to Holyoke in many years. Our goal in creating this issue is to bring you up to date about "Holyoke present," a place with noticeable signs of new growth (see pages 4-6), and to give you a glimpse into "Holyoke future": a city that combines the old canals and architecture with high speed computing and wireless networks, a city where cultural diversity and entrepreneurial spirit create new opportunities (see page 4).

I am proud to say that Holyoke Community College is partnering with Holyoke education agencies in significant new ways. The Picknelly

Adult and Family Education Center for example, is a bold collaboration to increase adult literacy in Holyoke.

If you live locally, I hope that you will consider volunteering as a literacy tutor (see page 12) or contact Sr. Connie Roy at Homework House, which provides free after-school tutoring and mentoring for children in Holyoke, (413) 265-1017.

You may want to join CRUSH (Citizens for the Revitalization and Urban Success of Holyoke), a diverse group of energetic citizens dedicated to a positive future for Holyoke (www.holyoke.ning.com). Aaron Vega '90 and Jim Leahy '99 are very involved with CRUSH and would welcome your participation.

If you do not live locally, you can still have a part in the revitalization of Holyoke by contributing to the Embrace Education Fund that has been established to underwrite the literacy programs in the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center.

Please read Gloria G. Lomax's letter on page 13 and join our Alumni Association in its commitment to HCC and to education in downtown Holyoke.



Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

Sincerely,

Joanna Brown
Director of Alumni Relations

Visit our new alumni pages!

Your alumni association has added new features and functionality.

- View and register for events
- Sign up for our new alumni newsletter
- Update your contact information (name, address, employer, email)
- Contribute to HCC

Find us on the HCC website (www.hcc.edu) - click on Alumni & Friends.

Videophone improves communication

HCC recently acquired a third videophone, located in the Deaf Services office. "It's fairly new technology, but it's now more commonly used than the outdated TTY (teletype machine)" said Deaf Services Specialist Debbie Geoffroy. Free of the time delays and freezes characterized by other video services, the new videophone improves communication for the deaf and hard of hearing members of our community.



Debbie Geoffroy



Jackie Robles-Cruz

Role model recognized

HCC Officer Jackie Robles-Cruz recently won the Outstanding Personal Contribution Award from the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, in recognition of her work with HCC students. A campus police officer for more than a decade, Robles-Cruz knows that her interactions with students have an impact. "Having three brothers and a sister who are police officers has helped me realize the importance of having a role model in a young person's life," she said.

An old tradition marks a new beginning

On December, 17 graduates of HCC's Practical Nursing Certificate program took part in the traditional pinning ceremony before family, friends, and HCC faculty and staff. The pinning tradition began when Florence Nightingale wanted to honor graduates of the nursing school she founded in 1860.



Photo: Jessica Marie Photography



Cultivating leadership among students of color

Nine HCC students of color joined 300 students from four-year and community colleges for the Millennium Leadership Conference, November 5-7 at Clark University in Worcester, MA. Participants spent the day in workshops and discussion groups aimed at cultivating young leaders. "For many of our students it was a life-changing experience," said HCC counselor Jossie Valentin.

Soccer success

HCC women's soccer team made it to the NJCAA Division III Women's Soccer National Championship Tournament. The team won the NJCAA Region 21 title for the third consecutive year to clinch a place in the Elite Eight national championship.



From ESL class to the college of her dreams

An immigrant from the Republic of Latvia, Maria Ledyaev came to the United States with a dream to attend the famed Berklee College of Music in Boston. She enrolled in ESL programs for non-English speakers at HCC's Ludlow Adult Area Learning Center (LAALC), then entered HCC's Adult Basic Education Transition to College and Careers (ABETCC) program. Encouraged by her husband, family, friends and teachers, she applied and was accepted to Berklee. She began her studies this spring. To hear Maria's music, go to www.marialedyaev.com.



Maria Ledyaev

Gifts of "things that we take for granted"

HCC students formed Help Our Troops (HOT) to send support and needed supplies to U.S. military troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Club member Nina Scarnici and Student Senate Vice President Kelli-Marie Malke (shown, left and right) worked with members of the Student Senate to pack more than 30 boxes filled with everything from snacks to books to clothing items—all donated by students and organizations on campus.





From Paper City to High Performance Computing Center

By Kathleen Moore

Two new high-tech initiatives—and an innovative city leadership team—are transforming Holyoke.

Change is coming to Holyoke. The Paper City may soon be known as a center for high-performance computing and networked technology—and HCC is playing a key role in this transformation.

In 2012, the city of Holyoke will welcome the Green High-Performance Computing Center, a \$168 million facility that will be able to do complex computations for a consortium of high-level users, including the University of Massachusetts, MIT, BU, Northeastern University, and Harvard. Located on the Bigelow Street site of the former Mastex Industries, the center will have a capacity equal to approximately one million laptop computers, making it a powerful resource for the regional and state economy.

While construction continues on that project, Cisco Systems will transform the way Holyoke provides key services by inaugurating its Smart + Connected Communities project. According to a memorandum of agreement signed last year, Cisco will provide a targeted portion of the city with the latest in integrated network solutions to drive a more efficient delivery system for education, healthcare, and other government services.

"This is about using existing technology, and some new technologies, to make our city run better," says Jeffrey Hayden, HCC's vice president for Business and Community Services. "For instance, right now, the police and fire scanners are separate. Now, imagine if they were integrated, and both were connected to the hospital. That could improve response time, save money, and save lives."

Hayden said the concept can be expanded to include greater access to public higher education, as well. Teleconferencing technology is already being used to connect classes in HCC's Picknelly Center for Adult and Family Education in downtown Holyoke, to the college's main campus. Hayden envisions a time when students enrolled at HCC will be able to use the technology to take classes that are taught on the other side of the world, allowing them access to the best sources of information and expertise.

"If Bill Gates is available for a teleconference, why shouldn't our students be able to attend?"

As these initiatives gain ground, Hayden and other leaders believe that a growing number of high-tech businesses will be

attracted to Holyoke. Besides offering proximity to the computing center and the convenience of the Cisco-supported connectivity, Holyoke offers inexpensive hydroelectric power and a committed training and education partner in HCC.

"HCC can play a big role in educating the workforce needed to train and run new systems," he says. "But we're also looking into developing associate's, bachelor's, and even doctorates in technology management, because in a high-tech economy, you need new skills. We're talking with STCC, Mount Holyoke, and UMass about developing an educational pathway that could transform the regional workforce." That transformation is coming at precisely the right time, according to HCC alumna, Holyoke Mayor Elaine Pluta '92.

"With the Smart + Connected Communities project, we're looking at something that will save the city time and money in the way we provide key services," she says. "That's money we can use to continue revitalizing the downtown, attracting businesses to our city, making it a place that more people will want to call home. We welcome the changes that technology can bring, and I'm personally very proud of Holyoke Community College for playing such a vital role."

To Provide Greater Access to Education, HCC Goes Back to Where it all Began

Housed in the bustling Holyoke Transportation center—a renovated fire station on Maple Street—the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center (PAFEC) has brought HCC back to the place where it all began: downtown Holyoke. It was here, from 1946 until 1974, that HCC showed many working-class families that college was an achievable goal.

That aim is central to today's PAFEC, home to no fewer than 10 educational and career-related programs that share, along with a Head Start Day Care program and the Peter Pan and PVT transportation systems, quarters in the new Holyoke Transportation Center.

"With the Picknelly Center, we're putting our classrooms where our heart is—in the community," says HCC President William F. Messner. "And we're not alone."

Established by the Juntos Collaborative, Holyoke Public Schools, and Holyoke Community College, PAFEC brings together resources that meet the diverse educational and career needs of this urban community. Education is the bedrock, but an improved standard of living is the goal.

"I think that, for a long time, Adult Basic Education (ABE) seemed only to have an educational goal, to teach someone to read better or to get a GED

so they could get a job," says George Kohout, who manages PAFEC while also running System of Adult Basic Education Services (SABES), one of the programs housed in the center. "These days, people are beginning to see Adult Basic Education as a part of the bigger economic picture, a way to move people beyond a GED to a career training program or college, where they can significantly improve their earning power. All of the programs at the center are aware of this connection."

The Picknelly Center meets this challenge by meeting the students on their own terms. It accommodates their busy work schedules by staying open six days a week, from early morning until 10 p.m. It is located at the hub of the city's bus system, which many students use to access childcare or work. Once inside the PAFEC, students discover it's the place where they can take pre-GED classes, basic adult literacy courses, and college classes for credit. It's also where they can talk to a college admissions or financial aid counselor, and receive help exploring career options, writing a resumé, and conducting a job search. As their confidence grows, Kohout says, so too does their ambition.

For a full list of programs located in the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center, please visit www.hcc.edu/about/pafec_partners.html.



For HCC Staff,
College and
Community
Service Go
Hand in Hand

When Irma Medina '97 leaves her job at HCC each day, she doesn't leave her commitment to educational access in a file cabinet. Like many of her HCC colleagues, the senior coordinator for the Pathways Program is involved in community organizations that expand on her personal commitment to helping others.

For Medina, that organization is the Community Education Project, where she has served on the board for the last seven years (three as board president).

"My work with CEP benefits my work at HCC because they both are focused on educating people from the community. Access and opportunity to education are very important to me—not just as beliefs, but as the basis for action," says Medina. "It's great to see students go through this pipeline of programs we've created so that they can continue their educations at HCC. This is personally and

continues on page 6





Living his Vision for Holyoke

By Kathleen Moore

HCC alum Aaron Vega '90 has an agenda for his hometown, and he's not shy about trumpeting it.

"I want to make Holyoke a city where people want to live their entire lives," says the former New York City filmmaker and current at-large Holyoke City Councilor. "I want them to be excited about Holyoke."

Since returning to Holyoke nearly nine years ago, Vega has been putting action behind those words. In addition to locating his business, VegaYoga, in a renovated Holyoke factory, Vega sits on the board of Homework House, a local charity offering homework assistance and tutoring to elementary school students. He is also a founding member of Citizens for the Revitalization and Urban Success of Holyoke (CRUSH), a social networking group.

"Our mission is to promote the downtown, to form a network with leaders, and to make things happen in Holyoke," he says. "A lot of artists and creative people have moved into the city, like me moving back from New York City, and they had no way to connect with other people. We want to change that."

CRUSH has established an online community calendar. It has also

sponsored three community-wide New Years Eve parties, and recently held a gala that raised more than \$6,000 for Homework House and Holyoke Public Library renovations. Its monthly networking event, Party with a Purpose, gives residents and leaders an opportunity to hear presentations about local issues, like ballot questions, historic restoration projects, and, yes, the importance of higher education.

"Whenever we're talking about the revitalization of Holyoke, HCC is at the table making important contributions. Last summer, HCC came in to talk about why they were moving into the new transportation center, and it was really pretty moving because they had students—local kids from Holyoke—talk about what the college has done for them," Vega recalls. "By moving into the downtown, HCC is helping to revitalize Holyoke, one building at a time. One person at a time."

In his own way, Vega incorporates this approach into his business plan for VegaYoga. "I was looking at other spaces, but when I saw Open Square and realized what it could mean for Holyoke, I knew where I had to put my business," he says, adding: "A lot of people wouldn't want to drive to Northampton or Amherst for a yoga class. And they don't have to."

To find out about VegaYoga, visit at www.vegayoga.com. To learn more about CRUSH, visit their website at www.holyoke.ning.com.

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professionally gratifying because you are not only serving the students, but the community as well. It is humbling to meet these students, to know about the sacrifices they have made to be able to go to school—not only for themselves, but for their families, here and in their homelands."

Medina's philosophy resonates with her HCC colleagues, Multicultural Academic Services Coordinator Myriam Quinoñes '95 and Bilingual Senior Academic Counselor Jossie Valentin. The two long-time community activists served for years as mentors for the Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force, a group that develops leadership among local teens. Among other things, the group has sponsored an annual prom for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning teens and their allies.

"One of the reasons we did this was that it was an event that was available to kids in Northampton, and we wanted to reach those same teens in Holyoke," says Valentin. "We were able to work with youth who might eventually come to HCC because they've found their voice in this organization."

To make room for those voices, Quinoñes and Valentin recently scaled back their extensive involvement in local organizations—but they haven't completely disappeared from the scene.

"I still go to community organizations to talk to them about HCC, about what the college can do for teen mothers, for people who are struggling. It's my job, but it's also me," says Quinoñes, who has worked at the college for 10 years. "These will be the future voices of Holyoke, the people who will be doing something for the community because they've learned how to do things for themselves."

To find out more about the Community Education Project, visit www.cepholyoke.org/ www.cepholyoke.org

To find out more about the Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force, contact www.sites.google.com/site/holyokeglbtqtaskforce

—KM



Embodying the spirit of "Futures Inspired"

Alumna Onawa LaBelle '09 found inspiration at HCC; now the Smith College student is inspiring others. LaBelle spent last summer as an intern for Dr. Rosalind J. Wright, physician and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, at the world renowned Channing Laboratory, affiliated with Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. During the December 2010-January 2011 break, LaBelle traveled to India, where she studied the health care system and taught a health class for women at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS). She chronicled the experience on her blog at www.onawalabelle.blogspot.com.



BA Program at HCC

Taking advantage of the new Elms/HCC agreement, Deborah L. Brown '09 (HCC Phi Theta Kappa) enrolled in the Elms College BA program on the HCC campus. The psychology major (seated above) is shown with Elms College Professor Diana Lewis, Ed.D. The class, Educational Psychology, is held in the Kittredge Center. Interested in learning more about the program? See the Events section for upcoming information sessions!

Nursing supper

Nearly 100 alumni, nursing students, and current and retired faculty members attended the 2010 Nursing Supper on May 6. Pictured, first row, from left: Jacqueline Hebert '09 and Marcia Lamoureux '90, who is now an adjunct clinical faculty member in the HCC nursing program. Back row, from left: Nursing Professor Leona Florek, Mary Bart '94, and Colette Morin '00, who enjoyed seeing each other at the 2010 Alumni and Student Nursing Supper.



Couple Gives Others the HCC Opportunity

When Brian Burns '85, entered kindergarten, his mother, Eleanor V. Burns, applied for a job at Holyoke Junior College, then located on Sargent Street. Dr. George Frost hired the mother of nine on the spot, and asked her to start the next day. She worked in the registrar's office until she was in her mid 70s, because she loved working with students, and "it kept her young."

When Eleanor passed away, the Burns family decided to start a scholarship fund with gifts made in her memory. When their father, William H. Burns, died in 1993, the family began a golf tournament in his memory, contributing part of the proceeds to the Eleanor Burns Scholarship Fund, and funding scholarships to area high schools, which they continue to this day.



In 1999, Brian (currently a sergeant on the HCC Campus Police Department) and his wife, Cynthia Burns '84, decided to make a multi-year commitment to endow the scholarship through Brian's

payroll contributions. Now that the scholarship has reached the \$15,000 endowment threshold, the first Eleanor V. Burns scholarship will be awarded to an HCC student.

Though Brian and Cynthia have reached this milestone, they are not through giving. Along with their three children, Emily, Erin, and Brian, they have decided to start funding another endowed scholarship, the purpose of which will be decided at a later time.

When asked why the couple decided to create an endowed scholarship, Brian Burns said, "My mom loved working here, Cynthia and I are both graduates, and I love working here, too. It's a way of giving back for everything that we have received from HCC."

To learn how you can create a scholarship that will be a lasting tribute to a loved one, please call Joanna Brown at (413) 552-2253 or Erica Broman at (413) 552-2747.

CLASS NOTEBOOK

1958

Beverly (Smith) Richea is retired and enjoys traveling. She is active in local organizations and keeps busy with her grandchildren.

1966

Gerald D. Healy was named Grand Marshall of the 2011 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. The son of two Irish immigrants, Healy graduated from Holyoke High School and HCC. He is a professor of economics and management at Westfield State University. Healy has been active on the St. Patrick's Committee and is known for having designed the Holyoke St. Patrick's Tartan.

1972

Russell Boudreau is a member of the Greenhouse Gas Committee at Mount Holyoke College, where he has worked for 36 years. He focuses on energy reduction strategies via building automation, including the use of sophisticated thermostats, site lighting, zone heating and cooling, chiller control, and other processes. He began his engineering studies at Wentworth Institute in Boston, continued at HCC, and earned his BA in forest management at UMass in 1975.

1972

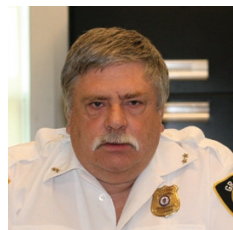
Paul E. Goddu joined Baystate Financial in South Dennis, MA in 2008, after 25 years in the financial services industry. A financial planner who helps his clients gain and maintain control of their financial lives, Goddu is also a WNEC graduate, and holds an MA in Psychology from Springfield College. He and wife Clare live in Brewster, MA and have four college-educated children. He is a member of PFLAG, Provincetown Business Guide, and the Cape Cod Technical Counsel, and serves on the Cape & Islands United Way Community Investment Committee.

1972

George Moreau is a member of the Chicopee City Council, representing Ward 7. He served on the school committee for

six years, and since then has served 23 years on the city council.

1973



Louis M. Barry retired from the Granby, MA, Police Department in September 2010, after serving as chief for 23 years. Barry also worked

for the Police Department in Orleans, MA for many years, where he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Since 1990, he has been an adjunct faculty member in the Criminal Justice department at Holyoke Community College, teaching introduction to criminal justice, evidence, criminal law, and police administration.

1976

James Tabak commanded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) School in Oberammergau, Germany, a position that brought him satisfaction, pride, and recently, recognition. During the 111th session, Congress passed H.R.527, a resolution commending the contributions of the NATO School for its critical support of efforts to promote global peace, stability, and security, and expressing "appreciation to Colonel James J. Tabak, USA-MC, for his leadership of the NATO School during his tenure as commandant from June 2006 to June 2009." As Tabak commented "This alum went on to a very satisfying career. It all started at HCC."

1978

Jay Ducharme, Professor of Electronic Media at HCC, worked at Mountain Park for over a decade, just as his father before him. Ducharme has spent much of his life preserving and sharing the history of the park, and his book, *Mountain Park*, (Arcadia Publishing), is still selling well after two years in print. He is a member of the board of directors of the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, and has given many presentations about the park throughout New England.

1979

Debra Tremblay Niemi owns Tremblay Barrels in Chicopee, MA, a fourth generation business. She was presented with a certificate from the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge the longevity of the business, now in its 90th year. Those interested in barrels may reach her at tremblaybarrels@aol.com or (413) 534-4460.

1983

Larry Maiolo is a Realtor with Century 21 Hometown Associates in East Longmeadow. He invites alumni to contact him to find out how he can help them with their real estate needs. He may be reached at (413) 567-0180 or maiolola@comcast.net.

1989

Robert R. Authier was appointed fire chief for District One in South Hadley, effective January 2011. Authier was previously deputy fire chief in the Holyoke Fire Department, where he had worked since 1991. Authier majored in criminal justice while at HCC.

1990

Aaron Vega is the co-director of Vega Yoga & Movement Arts and is also a Holyoke City Councilor. He was one of "40 Under Forty" who were honored at a 2010 gala at the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House.

1993



Christopher G. Pronovost was promoted to captain of the Amherst Police Department in April of 2010. Pronovost has worked for the department for 20 years.

1994

Steve Bertera is the general manager of Bertera Nissan in Auburn, MA. Bertera Auto has eight dealerships in Massachusetts and Connecticut, selling and servicing Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Nissan, Subaru, Suzuki, Mitsubishi, and Chevrolet. HCC alumni are invited to call him at (508) 832-9611.

1995



Nancy Bazanchuk is a program director of CHD's Disability Resources. She was honored at the annual 40 Under Forty Gala at the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House in

June, 2010. She was also recognized as one of the Girl Scout's Women of Distinction at their annual event.

1995

Kathryn M. Dulchinos received the 49th George E. O'Connell Award from the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee, given to someone who has made significant contributions to fund-raising efforts for the parade. Dulchinos began volunteering as a Colleen escort in 1986 and joined the parade committee in 1989. In 2002 she received the Gallivan Award for outstanding contributions to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee by an out of town member.

1999



Geoffrey J. Croteau is a financial advisor with MassMutual. Croteau has been named Member of the Year for Business Networking International's

Western Mass region, which consists of 16 chapters and over 330 members. Croteau is president of his chapter, Partners in Prosperity, which meets on Friday mornings at 7 a.m. at Pazzo in Springfield. Alumni may contact him at (413) 222-4883 or geoffcroteau@gmail.com

2000

Sandra Deyo and Annette Davis-Harris '04 were featured in a Springfield City Library column entitled "Committed Women Change Kids' World." Both volunteer on behalf of the library's Springfield Tots Are Ready to Read (STARR) program, which helps preschool children arrive at school

with a love of books and ready to learn to read. They have also collected and distributed to city children, school supply bags filled with pencils, crayons and paper. Davis-Harris and Deyo's motto is "read, write, create!"

2000

Jill Monson is the director of marketing at Adam Quenneville Roofing & Siding Inc. She was one of those honored at the 2010 "40 Under Forty" Gala at the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House.

2002

Magda Rosado-Cuoco is at BayState Medical Center as staff assistant in the General Medicine Department at BayState Medical Center. She supports the hospitalist program and the academic department. She has worked at BayState since 2007.

2002



Cathy Stasio is an Account Executive with Field Eddy Insurance. She provides personal line insurance quotes to people throughout New England on homeowner and umbrella policies,

as well as policies for automobiles, boats, jet skies, snowmobiles, and all terrain vehicles. She invites alumni to contact her at cstasio@fielddeddy.com or (413) 233-2109.

2003

Susan Keefe is a registered nurse at Behavioral Health Network, managing the care of individuals in residential homes and independent living settings. She also works with the Association for Community Living adult foster care program. Coming to HCC turned her life around, and created wonderful opportunities for herself and her family. "New Directions," she said, "is the perfect name" for the program that was her entry to HCC.

2003

Ruby Maddox-Fisher spent summer 2010 in Accra, Ghana studying urban agriculture food security, partnerships between local government institutions

and urban farmers. While there, she accompanied officers from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on visits to urban farms, and volunteered at one of the sites to learn more about land insecurity, irrigation, and the farmer's role in the urban food system. Co-founder of Gardening the Community, a youth urban agriculture program in Springfield, she recently completed her BA in Public Policy and Urban Communities at UMASS Amherst. She is currently program coordinator for Mount Holyoke College's Miller Worley Center for the Environment.

2004

Annette Davis-Harris was featured with Sandra Deyo, '00 in a Springfield City Library column entitled "Committed Women Change Kids' World." See "2000."

2004

Amy B. Gracey moved to Delaware in 2009, to work for the Caterina Benincasa Art Gallery. In fall 2010, she applied and was accepted to Loyola University of Maryland. She will pursue an MS in Pastoral Counseling, an innovative and academically rigorous program that explores the relatively new field of clinical/spiritual psychology.

2005

Seth W. Carey, manager of Carey's Flowers in South Hadley, was the keynote speaker at the annual volunteer luncheon at Holyoke Medical Center. The keynote address was "Flowers for Presidential Inaugurations." A fourth generation business, in 2012, Carey's will celebrate its centennial. Alumni are invited to stop and smell the roses, or see what's new at www.careysflowers.com, or call (413) 536-0444.

2005

Trisha Mackey '05 assists her aunt, Octavia Mackey, the owner of Dancing Dog Cafe, with public relations. Dancing Dog Cafe opened on July 7, 2010 at 191 High Street in Holyoke. The motto of the Cafe is "stop

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by for howling good food, coffee and espresso." They use a special cold brewing method for smoother tasting coffee and less acid. Call them at 413-533-1519 or find them on Facebook or Twitter @ dancingdogcafe. HCC alumni and students get a free cup of coffee with any food purchase.

2005

Pawel Muskus and his wife, Nyree, have opened a jewelry and gift shop called Boston Beautiques at 525 Springfield St. in Feeding Hills. They specialize in selling unique, hand-made sterling silver jewelry with semi-precious stones, homemade soaps, and antique art glass. Visit them at www.bostonbeautiques.com or call (413) 654-6338.

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

- Mary Louise McIntyre, Ph.D. '55
- Edward M. Chase '64
- Hervey J. Moreau '75
- Thomas E. Long '76
- Janice L. Pelkey '80
- Lisa Zaharias '84
- Bonnie A. Grenier '87
- Kenneth A. Racine '88



Victor E. Thomas, Sr., retired staff member. During his 48 years at Holyoke Junior College and Holyoke Community College, Victor served as registrar, dean of admission, director of off campus programs, mathematics professor, mathematics department chair, and inspiration for generations of students and staff. He will be missed.



Class Notes/Change of Information

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

Name: _____

Former name: _____

Class year: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Email Address: _____

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

Please return this form to:
 Alumni Office, HCC, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040,
 fax to (413) 552-2479, or email to jbrown@hcc.edu
 with subject line of "HCC Notes." by June 10, 2011.



Fond Memories and Bright Hopes

Editor's Note: In keeping with the theme of this issue, Shirley Swords Walker and Richard F. Walker, who now reside in Salem, Mass., shared their memories of Holyoke

We have fond memories of Holyoke. The Holyoke Public Library was a great resource to learn and study in a quiet place away from home, especially during summer vacation. We attended several Holyoke schools: Elmwood, Metcalf, H.B. Lawrence, St. Jerome's, and Holyoke High. Living in the projects and the blocks; ice skating in the winter at night at McKenzie Field; attending dances at the K of C, Second Congregational Church, St. Jerome's, and Holyoke High.

We raised ourselves up from poor backgrounds and went for the stars. We studied hard, played sports and partied with friends. We learned values that sustained us in our lives. Smart, well rounded students played well on college campuses. The discipline we learned prepared us for the hard choices in the '60s revolution.

We met in 1970, when we both worked for the Welfare Department. Richard had returned from Vietnam combat duty

with the United States Marine Corps. We grew up in Holyoke, but didn't know each other, as he was four years older.

We realized we had both lived in Elmwood and downtown Holyoke, attended Elmwood and Metcalf Schools, and our parents knew each other in the 1930s.

We loved Holyoke and saw our parents as role models, but we wanted more, and had to leave Holyoke to get it, as did most of our high school class.

We wish you the best in your endeavor at the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center in downtown Holyoke. We are happy to see the revitalization of our hometown and plan to come and see it in the coming months.

Shirley Swords Walker and Richard F. Walker '62

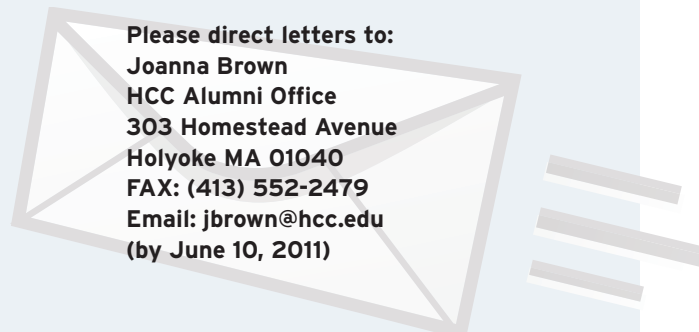


Shirley Swords Walker and Richard F. Walker

We Love Letters!

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

Please direct letters to:
Joanna Brown
HCC Alumni Office
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke MA 01040
FAX: (413) 552-2479
Email: jbrown@hcc.edu
(by June 10, 2011)



Spring 2011 Events

Elms College BA Degree at HCC Information Sessions (Kittredge Center 205)

Wednesday, May 11, 1-3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 7, 1-3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 3, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

For more information visit www.elms.edu.

Thursday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.

Student Ensemble Concert

Featuring the Piano Ensemble, Classical Guitar Ensemble, Chamber Vocal Ensemble, and College Chorale. Free. Leslie Phillips Theater (Forum).

Thursday, May 12, 5-7 p.m.

Alumni and Student Nursing Supper

Join us for an informal dinner with alumni, PN and ADN nursing students, and current and retired nursing faculty. Keynote speaker Michelle Sherlin, RN, BSN, HCC Nursing Simulation Specialist. Free to HCC nursing alumni and current nursing students. Kittredge Center. Register by May 4 at www.hcc.edu (click on "Alumni") or (413) 552-2253.

Friday, May 13, 5-8 p.m.

Gerry L'Heureux Retirement Dinner

Join the HCC community to celebrate Gerry L'Heureux's 44 years of college service. Kittredge Center. Social hour 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. \$20 per person. Register by May 6 to Claire Wheeler at wheelheur@comcast.net (subject "Gerry's dinner").

Tuesday, May 17, 4-6 p.m.

HCC Veterans Center Dedication

Alumni and their guests are invited to attend a brief dedication ceremony of "the Bunker," the center for veterans and active duty personnel who attend or work at HCC. (Park in L lot and follow the path to Frost, first floor entrance.) Refreshments served. Call (413) 552-2253 to register by Friday, May 13.

Friday, May 20, 5-8 p.m.

Retail Management, Marketing Management & Bridge to Business Alumni Reunion Dinner

Retiring Professor Anne Potter and retired professor Elaine Ironfield hope to see retail management and marketing management alumni! Kittredge Center. Social hour 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. \$10 per person (partially sponsored by HCC Alumni Office). Register by May 11 at www.hcc.edu (click on "Alumni"), or (413) 552-2253. Open to alumni and their guests.

Tuesday, May 24, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Holyoke Tutor Mentor Open House

Volunteer to change someone's life. Work with adults studying basic reading, writing and math during the day or evening at the new Picknelly Adult and Family Learning Center, 208 Maple St. in Holyoke. Training provided. Call Emily Fox by May 20 at (413) 552-2932.

Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m.

Commencement on the soccer field at HCC.

Monday, May 30, 10 a.m.

Memorial Day Run/Walk Challenge at HCC

Run, walk, or sponsor a participant to raise funds for HCC's veteran's center. To register online go to www.hcc.edu (click on "Alumni") or contact Sue Doyle at (413) 552-2546.

Wednesday, June 8, 5-8:30 p.m.

Alumni Award Dinner

Honoring Steven LeFebvre '79, CFO of the Brown Companies, Bloomfield, CT, and Gail Sherman '81, president of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce. Social hour 5-6 p.m., dinner and tributes 6-8:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin Banquet House. \$40 per person (sponsor tickets \$55+). Register by May 20 at www.hcc.edu (click on "Alumni") or (413) 552-2253.

Tuesday, June 14, 6-7:30 p.m.

Alumni Networking Event

Hosted by Alumni Council members Cleveland Burton '86 and Geoff Croteau '99. Learn how to build your network and develop a constant stream of referrals for your business. Refreshments. Free to alumni, students, and guests. Register by June 9 at www.hcc.edu (click on "Alumni") or (413) 552-2253.

Thursday, June 23, 2011, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

An Evening On the Canal

Join us for conversation, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages with Aaron Vega '90, Holyoke City Councilor and business owner. VegaYoga, 2nd floor, Building 4, Open Square (directions: Opensquare.com). Free to HCC alumni and adult guests. Register by June 14 at www.hcc.edu (click on "Alumni") or (413) 552-2253.

July 7-10

25th Hispanic Family Festival

Springdale Park (844 Main St.) Holyoke. March with HCC in the Puerto Rican Day Parade! Meet at 11:30 a.m. on July 10 near MacKenzie field/Holyoke High School. For information, www.lafamiliahispana.org or call (413) 532-4496.

Saturday, Aug 20, 6 p.m.

HCC Disc Golf Demonstration

Alumni and guests (adults and children) are invited to learn about the disc golf course at HCC. Meet at the track behind Bartley Center. Register by calling Professor Jay Ducharme '78 at (413) 552-2508. Learn more at hccdiscgolf.karenandjay.com.

October 13-14

7th annual Forest Summit, sponsored by HCC and the Eastern Native Tree Society.

Free. For full program agenda and speakers, visit www.hcc.edu/forest/.

Dear Alumni,

In the last 10 years, I have spoken with thousands of alumni in person and by telephone. More than 90 percent of alumni say that they are satisfied or very satisfied with their experience as students at Holyoke Community College. Many of these alumni also mention that a parent, spouse, sibling, child, or other relative also enjoyed coming here.

What a remarkable endorsement of the success of Holyoke Community College!

Now, perhaps you can help me to understand a mystery that has puzzled me all of these years. The pieces are as follows: Huge satisfaction ratings by alumni; national attention for continued success in our alumni fund raising program; but—this is the part that puzzles me—merely 6 percent of our alumni contribute each year to this college that they appreciate and love. The amazing thing is that this small percentage has managed to break every national community college alumni fundraising record for 10 consecutive years.

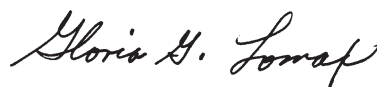
I invite you to join me this year by contributing to Holyoke Community College, so that 6 percent becomes 12 percent, and the number of donors continues to grow. As more HCC alumni

contribute to this college, we can easily outfit additional science laboratories, upgrade the electronic pianos in our music practice lab, equip more classrooms with “smart” boards capable of capturing a professor’s notes and posting them electronically, and fund dozens of other academic needs across the campus.

Our combined gifts will ensure that every student at Holyoke Community College will have access to the highest quality equipment and the latest in technology.

We have 27,000 HCC alumni. Together we can do something that no other community college in the history of this country has ever done: achieve alumni participation that equals alumni participation at private colleges and public universities. Why not? And, why not *now*?

Sincerely,



Gloria G. Lomax '75

President, Holyoke Community College
Alumni Association
Professor Emeritus



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

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

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

2011 HCC Annual Fund (closes June 30, 2011)

Enclosed is my contribution of:

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

I/we wish to contribute to the following fund:

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

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

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

Home/Cell telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Position/Title: _____

My/our check is enclosed, payable to **HCC Foundation Inc.**, (2011 fund drive ends June 30, 2011)

My/our gift will be matched by: _____ (please submit matching gift form)

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

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

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

ALUMNI CONNECTION

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

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Steven LeFebvre '79 and Gail Sherman '81 will receive the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award at the Alumni Association's annual award dinner at the Log Cabin, June 8, 5-8:30 p.m. See page 12 for more information.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Futures Inspired