

ALUMNI CONNECTION

SPRING 2006



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rich in OPPORTUNITY

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Director's Letter

The *Alumni Connection* is published three times a 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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Class Notes:

News and photographs from alumni should be addressed to the Alumni Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040.

Letters:

Readers are invited to submit letters and stories concerning HCC and its alumni to Joanna Brown at the above address. Contact the alumni director by phone, (413) 552-2253, or e-mail: jbrown@hcc.mass.edu

Class Notes/Change of Address:

Please submit the reply form on page 15, or call the Alumni Office (413) 552-2253.

2005-2006 Alumni Council:

President	
Gloria G. Lomax	`75
Second Vice President	
Stephen F. Bryda	`03
Secretary	
Marsha Ryan	`70
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Angela M. Belisle, R.N.	`77
Laura L. Brennan	`79
Carrie Buckner	`77
Anna Calderon	`97
Eddie Corbin	`68
Judy A. Cote	`86
Geraldo Cotton	`06
Patsy J. Dailey	`99
Margaret DeJesus	`90
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Gertrude E. Monson	`97
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Rhonda Soto	`97
Karen Thompson-Brown	`05
Vandelyn T. Wright	`83

The Alumni Council, a group of key alumni volunteers, oversees alumni initiatives. To learn more about joining the Alumni Council, please call Joanna Brown, (413) 552-2253.



Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

Letter from the Director of Alumni Relations

Dear Alumni,

HCC's 60th anniversary year will begin in September, but planning for the festivities has already started. The Alumni Council is very excited to announce that it is working to create an Alumni Hall of Recognition on campus—a special space that will feature photographs and biographies of those who have received Distinguished Alumni and Volunteer of the Year awards.

In keeping with the 60th anniversary theme, this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients will be chosen from those alumni 60 years of age or older. These individuals will be honored at an event inaugurating the Hall of Recognition in 2006 or 2007.

Right now, we need nominations. The deadline for nominating yourself or another alumni is April 20. Criteria include:

- HCC alumni status (graduates or alumni who have accrued at least nine credit hours at HCC, before leaving HCC in good standing) and who are 60 years of age or older.

- Demonstrated achievement within a career, or notable achievement in some other area of life.
- Significant community-based service
- Demonstrated commitment to HCC.

Please email the name of the nominee, your name, and information pertaining to the above criteria to jbrown@hcc.mass.edu with "Distinguished Award Nomination" in the subject line. You may also send a hard copy nomination letter to Joanna Brown, HCC Alumni Office, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040.

As this edition of the *Alumni Connection* goes to press, we are busy coordinating a celebration to mark the official opening of the Kittredge Center in mid-May. We are also looking forward to a special presentation by alumna Karolyn Ali '65 who was nominated for an Academy Award for her documentary film "Tupac: Resurrection."

To receive invitations to these and other special events, please email me at jbrown@hcc.mass.edu. In the subject line, please write: "HCC event list-(Your Name)." You may also mail a note to me at the HCC Alumni Office, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040. Include your name and mailing address, and we will be sure to invite you to all events that celebrate HCC's 60th year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Brown".

Director of Alumni Relations
Joanna Brown

Report from Joe April

Aided by two gifts totaling \$150,000, HCC'S *Gift of Opportunity* campaign is nearing its goal of \$4 million in gifts and pledges. In September, MassMutual Financial Group pledged \$100,000, and, in October, the Woronoco Savings Charitable Foundation committed \$50,000 to the campaign, the largest fund raising effort in HCC's history.

"We have been overwhelmed with the support we have received," said Ned Barowsky, chair of the campaign. "MassMutual's and Woronoco's gifts helped bring us significantly closer to our goal. As we prepare to celebrate the college's 60th anniversary, we are very optimistic that we will achieve not only the financial goals of this campaign but the educational outreach objectives as well."

The MassMutual grant allows HCC to bolster the capital needs of its Center for Academic and Program Support, where tutoring and mentoring services take place. It also supports the adjacent library information instruction lab where students learn vital research skills that serve them well for the rest of their lives.

"At MassMutual, we believe that providing students with the resources they need is an essential bridge to move through college life," said MassMutual's Director of Community Relations Ronn Johnson.

"MassMutual remains committed to public education, and when students succeed, everyone benefits. HCC has a high percentage of students who transfer to four-year institutions, and we are glad to work with the college to provide students with the resources needed to successfully earn a college degree," Johnson added.

The Woronoco grant is directed in support of the capital needs of HCC's new Kittredge Center, which will house

the college's business division as well as its workforce development and training programs and WISER (the World Institute for Strategic Economic Research).

"The Woronoco Foundation is excited to be a part of Holyoke Community College's campaign," said Debra L. Murphy, Treasurer of the Woronoco Foundation. "New technologically enhanced classrooms and seminar rooms provide students with a wonderful opportunity to gain essential skills necessary in today's workforce. The foundation recognizes the importance of a high-quality education and is pleased to support this project."

The center, named after HCC alum and Yankee Candle founder, Michael Kittredge, is slated to open in mid-May.

"We are planning a series of celebratory events that showcase not only the new Kittredge Center, but the donors to *The Gift of Opportunity* campaign," said Barowsky. "Donors will have the opportunity to recognize their gifts by naming classrooms, faculty offices, and seminar spaces in the Kittredge Center. When we officially open the building, we will also unveil the campaign signage which recognizes campaign donors."

In 2004, the HCC Alumni Association committed to raising \$500,000 by June 2009. This ambitious pledge is a crucial part of the larger goal, and we are pleased to say we are making impressive progress. A year-and-a-half into this five-year campaign, alumni have already pledged \$190,000. When the remaining \$310,000 is received, we will be able to cap off the campaign with a special event: the official naming of the Alumni Clocktower.

All donors who make a commitment of \$2,500 or more will have the



Development Officer Joseph April

opportunity to have a facility in the Kittredge Center named and those who make commitments over \$1,250 may have their names listed on the campaign plaque to be placed in the building's lobby. For more information on named giving opportunities please contact Joe April at (413) 552-2746 or japril@hcc.mass.edu.

Annual Fund Update



Alumni Association President Gloria G. Lomax

Gloria G. Lomax '75

Dear HCC Alumni,

I want to thank you for your generosity, which has allowed HCC to expand opportunities throughout the campus.

In 2004, alumni donations allowed the college to purchase more than \$42,000 worth of needed equipment. For the campus police, that meant two new AED defibrillators. For the music program, it meant the addition of six new storage lockers for large instruments. And for the nursing program—whose enrollment has burgeoned beyond our wildest dreams—it meant the purchase of a computerized mannequin, the latest in medical technology.

The Alumni Association has pledged to raise \$500,000 for *The Gift of Opportunity* campaign over the next three years. I am proud of this ambitious goal, and want you to be, too. Along with corporate donors, foundations, and others, the Alumni Association is making an important statement about the value of an HCC education.

Upgraded equipment is an important part of an HCC education. But it is not everything.

The more pledges we receive, the more scholarships the college will disburse, the more one-on-one tutoring for students who are wavering academically. The campaign will also underwrite the success of the Kittredge Center, with new technology and office equipment. We are confident that with your donations—and matching gifts from your employers—we will reach our ultimate goal by 2009.

I would like to impress upon you the value of your gift. Every donation helps the college accomplish its mission, extending the legacy of success to thousands of HCC students. I look forward to hearing from you through your generous contributions.

Gloria G. Lomax '75

P.S. If you work for a company that has a matching gift program, please obtain the appropriate form from your employer and include it with your contribution.

What's New

HCC has recently upgraded and re-launched its website. Visit us at www.hcc.edu and click on the *Alumni and Friends* link to catch up with familiar faces. The website is a work in progress, and we expect to add more information and features in the coming months.

You can also stay connected to HCC's news and events by subscribing to *HCC Connection Online*, the college's bi-weekly e-newsletter. Just click on the "HCC Connection Online" link located on the HCC homepage. You may also receive an automatic email alert when new editions of the *HCC Connection* go online. Simply email your request to Kimberly Williams at kwilliams@hcc.mass.edu.

HCC Giving Levels

Benefits are accrued in a given fund year. The 2006 fund year runs from July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006.

President's Circle—\$5,000 or more (Gold)
or \$2,500–\$4,999 (Silver)
Benefits: Invitation to the annual President's Dinner prepared by culinary students and benefits listed below.

Summit Society—\$1,000–\$2,499
Benefits: Invitation to Chef's Table Luncheons at the college and benefits listed below.

Sheehan Society—\$500–\$999
Benefits: Invitation to exclusive viewing of city fireworks when hosted by HCC and benefits listed below.

Phoenix Society—\$250–\$499
Benefits: Special invitations to all art gallery receptions at Taber Art Gallery and benefits listed below.

Homestead Society—\$100–\$249
Benefits: HCC Alumni Association license plate frame and benefits listed below. Alumni who contribute \$100 or more per year for three years will also have a brick engraved with their name placed in the alumni donor brick display.

Emerald Club—\$50–\$99
Benefits: Name published in HCC Foundation annual report and in alumni giving report.

Cougar Club—Up to \$49
Benefit: Name published in alumni giving report.

2006 HCC Alumni Fund and *The Gift of Opportunity* campaign

Enclosed is my contribution for 2006 of:

\$ _____ \$25 \$35 **\$60*** \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$ _____

*In honor of our 60th year, please consider contributing at this level or higher.

Please also enter my future pledges for *The Gift of Opportunity* campaign 2007-2009:

2007 \$ _____ 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____

I/we wish to have my/our gift designated to the following fund:

Campaign Funds:

- The Gift of Opportunity Unrestricted Fund (wherever the need is greatest)**
- Kittredge Business Center Fund (equipment, furniture, and technology)**
- The Student Opportunity Fund (tutoring, mentoring, and work-study)**
- Library Resource Fund (restoring cancelled print and electronic resources)**

Alumni Funds:

- Alumni Equipment Fund**
- Alumni Scholarship Fund**
- Other Fund Designation:** _____

Alumni name(s): _____ Graduation year or years attended: _____

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

Home telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Position/Title: _____

My/Our check is enclosed, payable to HCC FOUNDATION with a memo line of "ALUMNI." (2006 fund drive ends June 30, 2006)

My/Our gift will be matched by: _____ (Please send matching gift form)

Charge/Debit (circle one): AMEX MC VISA DISCOVER

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

If you do not want your name printed in the 2006 Annual Giving Report, please check this box.

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

President's Bulletin



HCC President William F. Messner

Bill's Bulletin

President William F. Messner shares news about all-college initiatives and the college's expanding involvement in the region.

Connecting with our community partners

This fall, my office hosted a series of breakfast meetings, designed to strengthen our connection with the community. Our first meeting, with local religious leaders, prompted invitations for HCC representatives to bring college information to youth at two local congregations. Following our second meeting—with Holyoke-based human service agencies—HCC co-sponsored a community basketball tournament to focus on identifying youth leadership. In December, we

met with Springfield human service providers and with the school superintendents of 20 surrounding school districts. I look forward to continuing this dialogue throughout the year.

Taking HCC to the community.

The college is making steady progress on its community outreach. In November, we learned that HCC was awarded \$1.25 million from the federal government to renovate and equip an adult education center in Holyoke's Intermodal Transportation

Center, located in the old fire station on Maple Street. This location, convenient to users of public transportation, allows the college to more realistically address the educational needs of inner-city residents, many of whom do not have their own transportation. We hope to offer ESL and GED programs there by the end of the year. Many thanks go out to our hard-working legislative delegation: Senators John F. Kerry and Edward M. Kennedy and Congressman John Olver.

Working toward a common goal

HCC students can now benefit from services and academic offerings at two private four-year colleges in Springfield. In September, I joined Springfield Technical Community College President Ira H. Rubenzahl in signing a dual admissions agreement that allows community college students transfer advantages to American International College. In December, I signed a similar agreement with Western New England College. Among other things, these agreements allow HCC students to attend classes and use services at the private four-year institutions. They also streamline the transfer process and provide scholarship opportunities for eligible students.

Heralding new leadership

The next time you stop by campus, you might see some familiar faces in some new administrative assignments. Please join me in welcoming them.

In September, the college hired private business consultant Geoffrey Little as acting vice president of business and community affairs. That position became vacant when longtime HCC administrator Dr. Paul E. Raverta resigned to become the interim president of Berkshire Community College.

In July, Doreen Larson joined HCC as the vice president of student affairs. She took over from John D'Orazio, who had served in an interim capacity.

Dr. Lisa Wyatt Ganson has been named vice president of academic affairs, filling a vacancy that was created by the retirement of Dr. David Entin. Ganson has served the college in a number of capacities over the years, most recently, as the dean of the Division of Science, Engineering and Math. Entin continues to teach sociology.

Several current staff members have generously agreed to fill in as acting deans while search committees look for permanent replacements. We hope to have all of these positions filled by the end of the spring semester, but, for the time being, Chemistry Professor Carl Satterfield has agreed to serve as the acting dean of the Division of Science, Engineering and Math, and Computer Information Professor Susan Mackler has taken on the role of acting dean of the Division of Business, replacing Dean John Donnellan who stepped

continues on facing page

down to spend more time teaching.

Burgeoning enrollment in the college's nursing program prompted HCC to create a separate Division of Nursing, now headed up by Dr. Ninon Amertil. The nursing program was formerly a part of the Division of Allied Health, Human Services and Early Childhood Education, which continues to focus on a variety of human service areas under the able direction of Dean Mary Farrell.

Beginning January 1, Gloria DeFillipo took to the helm of the newly created Division of Distance Learning. Formerly the dean of Division of Continuing Education, DeFillipo now oversees HCC's web-based distance learning opportunities. Courses formerly offered through the Division of Continuing Education are now coordinated by the appropriate academic deans.



- Bill Messner

Creating a Legacy The Frost Society

The Frost Society, created in memory of HCC's first president, Dr. George Frost, recognizes individuals who have committed resources to support the future of the college by including the HCC Foundation in a bequest provision in a will; naming the HCC Foundation as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), or other qualified retirement plan; naming the HCC Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy; participating in the HCC Foundation charitable gift annuity program; or naming the HCC Foundation as a beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust. Such gifts perpetuate the memory of donors and honor the values and traditions important to them, their families, and their communities for generations to come.

Frost Society members are recognized in the HCC Foundation's annual report and at special events held in their honor. They also receive personal invitations to college events. Membership in the Frost Society is offered to all individuals who have made a provision in their estate plans for the HCC Foundation, regardless of the amount. All gifts—no matter what the size—are deeply appreciated, gratefully acknowledged, and work in perpetuity to support HCC's mission.

If you are interested in learning more about making a planned gift to HCC, please contact Erica Broman, vice president for institutional development, (413) 552-2747 or email ebroman@hcc.mass.edu.



HCC's first president, Dr. George Frost

The Frost Society

Anonymous
Mr. Patrick B. Bresnahan, III '57
Erica Broman
Joanna Brown
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Callahan
Ms. Constance A. D'Elia
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Eger
Atty. and Mrs. John Ferriter
Atty. and Mrs. Maurice J. Ferriter '52
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Golas '71
Dr. Elaine Marieb '80
Atty. Louis Oldershaw
Dr. and Mrs. Victor Panitch
Kathleen M. Payne*
Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Towne
Gail T. Wright '75
Shirley L. Fallon*
Ruth McIntyre*
Donald R. Taber*
Victor Thomas
Juliette Tomlinson*
* deceased

Alumni Profile



Retired HCC Mathematics Professor and Registrar Victor E. Thomas, surrounded by his six children, all HCC alums

Victor Thomas

When his children were still teenagers, Victor E. Thomas struck a deal with them.

"I told them all if they spent a year at HCC, and did honors work, I'd send them to school anywhere in the country," said the West Springfield native, who retired from a 45-year career at HCC in 2003.

"Some of them wanted to break that rule—take a guitar and go to Vermont—but I told them that they could go to a school in Vermont after they went here."

Today, the Thomas family boasts six HCC alums, all of them with baccalaureate degrees. There are also three master's degrees and a doctorate—and no complaints about the educational path their father put before them.

"It was such a good experience because everyone

(at HCC) is so friendly," said Susan M. Thomas-Blanden, an HCC grad who went on to earn a degree in early childhood education from Westfield State College.

"It's not like I needed my Dad there to help me because the campus is more student-friendly."

His daughter's experience reinforces Thomas's educational philosophy. The former HCC math professor and registrar knows the college transition can be overwhelming for the average 18-year-old. He pointed to studies that show half of the students entering a four-year state college don't return after their first semester. That attrition has two roots, Thomas believes.

"For some, it might be the first time they've been away from home. They tend to run

around a college campus like lost puppies," he said. "And then there's the work. Academically, the train moves twice as fast as it does in high school. Together, those two things can be devastating."

Thomas said his children's attendance at HCC helped ease that transition. The work was college-level, but the living situation was unchanged.

"At least they weren't running around like puppy dogs," he said. "They could focus on their studies."

Thomas, 80, first attended college in 1946, after finishing up a four-year stint in the United States Air Force. He left a year later when he ran out of money, but eventually re-enrolled in American International College where he received his bachelor's degree in mathematics. He earned a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts, where he taught for a little while before coming to HCC.

The year was 1958. Enrollment was 350, and tuition was \$7 per credit for in-town students (\$8 for out-of-towners). Thomas was one of just three full-time professionals on the HCC staff.

"We had a full-time secretary, but all of the professors, they were from Mount Holyoke, Smith, Westfield State, or some other school. They taught here to get a little extra money on the side," Thomas said. "I was

designated as the admissions director, the registrar, the director of off-campus activities, and I also had to teach four courses."

What sounds hectic to some was invigorating for Thomas, who is no fan of idleness. In addition to juggling jobs at HCC, Thomas earned a real estate license, managed several local properties, and ran a successful sand and gravel company for 20 years. As a key administrator and educator, his focus at HCC was singular, however.

"At one time, people saw 'junior college' and the interpretation was that it wasn't really a college, but, from the day I began working there, we made sure it was college for everyone who came through the doors," he said. "We kept our fingers on the pulse of all the area (four year) colleges to find out what their first two years were like, academically, and we tailored our courses to agree with theirs."

Though he has retired to Florida now, Thomas looks forward to flying back to the area this spring so he can teach a one-night real estate math course for the Division of Continuing Education.

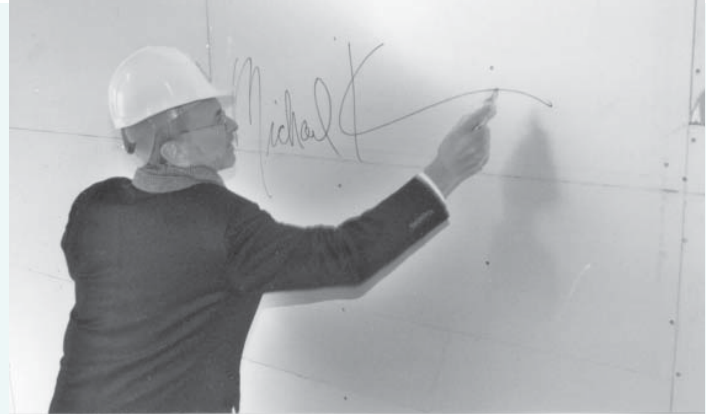
"I worked in education for 50 years and people would sometimes ask me why I worked so long," he said. "My response to those people was this: 'What do you do when you retire? You do what you enjoy doing.' Well, that's exactly what I am doing."

- Kathleen E. Moore

Event Photos



Students, staff, and visitors were deeply moved by the “Eyes Wide Open” exhibit that visited the Bartley Center, October 25-26. Eyes Wide Open is an installation of military combat boots, with nametags of fallen soldiers affixed to them, and civilian shoes representing military personnel and Iraqi civilians who have perished as a result of the Iraq war.



Michael Kittredge took a minute to sign a wall in the new Kittredge Business Center. You can add your name to that same wall with a donation of \$1,250 to *The Gift of Opportunity* campaign.



HCC President Dr. William F. Messner shook hands with Western New England College President Dr. Anthony S. Caprio (center) and Springfield Technical Community College President Dr. Ira H. Rubenzahl (left) on December 15. The three colleges now have a dual admissions agreement, allowing community college students many new opportunities. In September, we forged a similar agreement with STCC and American International College.



The clock tower at the Kittredge Business Center will be named the HCC Alumni Clock Tower in recognition of our pledge to raise \$500,000 by 2009. Your contribution in 2006 can put us on the way to reaching our goal.



Dr. Bill Cosby was a big hit with students and staff alike when he visited HCC October 25.

Alumni Profile



Gina Barry '94 with her dog, Freddy.

Gina Barry '94

Gina Barry has lived in Holyoke since infancy, graduating from Holyoke High School in 1990 before earning an associate degree in liberal arts from HCC in 1994. She went on to graduate cum laude from Westfield State College and Western New England College Law School.

The youngest of three children born to working-class parents, Barry is the first member of her family to graduate from college.

"I did not take school very seriously when I was in high school. I was at HCC for two years before the light bulb went on," said Barry. "HCC allowed me to find my way. I

learned that I had intelligence and something to offer, if I only applied myself."

Today, Barry uses her knowledge and skills as an attorney for Bacon & Wilson, PC, one of Springfield's most prestigious law firms.

As a member of that firm's estate planning and elder law department, Barry is committed to ensuring that clients, and the community, are aware of the importance of basic estate plans, wills, health care proxies, and powers of attorney.

"I have spoken to individuals who still believe that, by making out a will, they invite

death," said Barry. "Still others feel the process is too difficult or they just don't think they need these documents until it is too late. A health care proxy or power of attorney is needed while an individual is considered competent or it is too late."

"I focus my practice on helping people plan for the future. By having a will, healthcare proxy or power of attorney, you are protecting yourself and loved ones while you are living," said Barry.

Estate planning enables individuals to control what happens when they are no longer able to take care of themselves.

"Many individuals have avoided unnecessary court battles and excessive legal expenses by planning ahead," she said.

Barry's compassion does not extend solely to people. She has always loved all types of animals—cats, dogs, fish, horses and birds.

Over the years, Barry has combined her love of animals with her passion for law, establishing an estate planning practice that focuses on the care of pets. Barry now devises financial plans that will ensure a pet's well-being after its owner is gone.

"I represent people with cats, dogs, parrots, tortoises, and horses. I represent families with pets as well as professional breeders. People want to know that their

animals will be okay when they are gone," she said.

These days, Barry is working on a new project: equine rescue. Over the next three to five years, she hopes to bring together abused horses and battered women in a program of mutual therapy. As the women share in the horses' grooming, feeding, and exercise, Barry believes they will experience some measure of relief from the trauma of their circumstances.

"Animals are a great form of therapy for many people. As the women help heal the horses, they will help heal themselves as well," she said.

Whatever their species, Barry's clients remain her number one priority. She is particularly sensitive to the pain that often accompanies end-of-life decisions.

"Usually, after the death of a loved one people are too distraught to deal with the legal process," she said. "By having the necessary documents taken care of, your loved ones will not have to deal with a lot of legal red tape and the pressure of the court process."

- Kimberly R. Williams



Left: Former Interim President Dr. Paul E. Raverta, with his wife, Sharon, and daughter, Kristen, during a November 29 party to fete his 31-year tenure at HCC. Center: Biology Professor Raverta, sporting a very retro haircut, circa 1974. Right: Raverta dressed up as an ice cream man during a series of campus-wide Ice Cream Socials.

Paul E. Raverta

It was billed as a tribute to HCC's former Interim President Dr. Paul E. Raverta, but, for the first half hour, the guest of honor served as honorary doorman.

A steady stream of well-wishers kept Raverta from entering his own farewell party, held in the Picknelly Dining Room on November 29. One after the other, his former colleagues politely pinned Raverta to the doorway, prodding him with humorous reminiscences and warm inquiries. Flanked by his wife, Sharon, and daughter Kristen, Raverta didn't seem to notice the time passing.

"I was overwhelmed by the number of people who came and by what they had to say," said Raverta, who ended a 31-year career at HCC in September when he became the interim president of Berkshire Community College. "HCC wasn't just a job or a career for me, it was my life. I grew up at the institution and the people

at HCC will always be important to me."

Those sentiments were echoed by his colleagues, who took turns ribbing and lauding Raverta for more than an hour.

"We're here to bust his chops," President Bill Messner told a crowd of more than 100 former colleagues.

A West Springfield resident, Raverta began his HCC career as a biology instructor in 1974. He went on to become HCC's registrar, assistant director of the Division of Continuing Education, vice president for student development, and acting executive vice president. He served as the interim president after Dr. David Bartley's retirement, and most recently, served as the college's vice president for business and community affairs, heading up the prestigious Kittredge Center.

"He truly earned the right to say 'been there, done that,'" said Wayne Emerson, the

college's retired director of business and industry. "But, in Paul's case, I'd like to add: 'he's been there, done that *and he did it well.*'"

Donning a black wig, Raverta's former executive assistant, Judith Turcotte, led the crowd in a chorus of the Annette Funicello hit "Tall Paul." After listening to Turcotte's improvised lyrics, Raverta politely informed his old friend that he'd been a fan of the former Mouseketeer when he was eight years old and "you are no Annette Funicello."

Turcotte, and the rest of Raverta's fans, were undeterred.

"Paul managed to know every item of clothing in his colleagues' wardrobes," said Tony Pellegrino, the retired vice president for the Division of Continuing Education. "He made a fashion statement in the gym, as the only person to have matching pants and tops...I don't know how we ever dressed without you."

Michael Giampietro remembered he was a struggling graduate student when he first met Raverta. Clothes were not a high priority for the college's future vice president for administration and finance. Not so with Raverta.

"Instead of shaking hands the first time we met, he held up my tie and said 'polyester?'" said Giampietro.

HCC Trustee Pamela Murray said she became a fan of Raverta's decades earlier when she heard him giving an orientation speech to new students. At first, she said, it seemed like the usual fare, but she sat up straight and listened when he delivered his last line:

"And one more thing," Raverta said. "Try to have fun...I always do!"

And so he did, when he met with his HCC colleagues for a final time.

- Kathleen E. Moore

Alumni Letters

Arthur LaMirande '56

It was with great interest that I read the article headlined *Alumni Highlight Holyoke's Historic Landmarks* (*Alumni Connection*, spring 2005 edition). In particular, I was struck by the reference to the Soldier's Monument in Veterans Park (formerly Hampden Park).

This is one of the most unusual monuments to the Civil War, in that it is actually a monument to peace and reconciliation. As the article states, it is in dire need of preservation. Severe damage occurred to several of the ancillary sculptures years ago, and, to the best of my knowledge, has never been repaired. These sculptures depict very poignantly the patriotic euphoria of the young soldier, the brutal reality of combat, the grim indignity of death, and the grieving of the bereaved widow and child.

Another notable sculpture in Holyoke that is in dire need of restoration is that of the trumpeting angel at the Skinner family plot in Forestdale cemetery. The central bore of the trumpet has been missing for decades! Unfortunately, the handsome urn which comprised the Civil War memorial in this cemetery was supplanted years ago by a bland slab of no particular distinction.

The article fails to list (per se) the Holyoke Public Library, an edifice eminently worthy of preservation, as

well as the tower in Scott Park. Both the tower and the park are now in a forlorn state.

It is a sad fact that the wrecker's ball has laid waste to many notable landmarks in Holyoke, including a number of beautiful churches. In addition, the magnificent Kenilworth "Castle" and several other once-resplendent mansions along Northampton Street, are now only a dim memory. The article cites the (current) U.S. Post Office, but it fails to note that the original marble post office on Main Street was demolished decades ago, along with the nearby Flatiron Building, which was modeled after the famous Flatiron Building in New York City. Another victim of corporate avarice and urban indifference was the beautiful Marble Building opposite City Hall. It was replaced by an utterly pedestrian department store. The historic Holyoke Opera House fell prey to fire, with not a finger lifted to restore it.

Finally, we would be remiss not to recall the striking Summit House atop Mount Tom, along with the cable railway that conveniently transported visitors from downtown to the spectacular summit view. Nowadays, that view is known only to a comparative handful of intrepid hikers willing to risk snakebite! Holyoke, it seems, has seen fit to forego what was once a major tourist attraction, in favor of some

nondescript television transmitters! So much for city planning, foresight, and imagination!

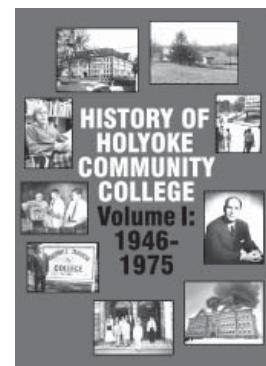
I would suggest that Holyoke follow the lead of New

York City and establish a Landmarks Preservation Commission.

- Arthur LaMirande '56

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Peter Hirst '71

Peter Hirst, '71, has never been one to sit still. After graduating from HCC with an engineering degree, he spent most of his working life as a dairy farmer in Oscala, Florida. Before he finally retired—for a *second* time—he spent time in the service, worked as a chemical research technician, tried his hand in real estate and investing, and worked as a marketing manager for Florida's farming bureau.

Retirement didn't slow him down. It merely gave him time to consider his next move.

"Working and raising a family left little time off for trips like the one I remember from an eighth grade teacher describing adventures of hiking and the Appalachian Trail—the most challenging trail in the country," said Hirst. "Once I no longer needed to be at a job, there was no reason to put off the trip."

Hirst began his own trek along the Appalachian Trail on a rainy afternoon in 2003. He set off from Rockfish Gap, Virginia, carrying a 65-pound pack, with high hopes for a trouble-free journey.

"I thought I could finish the trail in five months," he said. "I did not have a clue what I was in for. Within a week and a half I had a bad head cold, several blisters on my feet and my backpack was heavy," he said.

"Yet, I was able to let go of my misgivings and continue on."

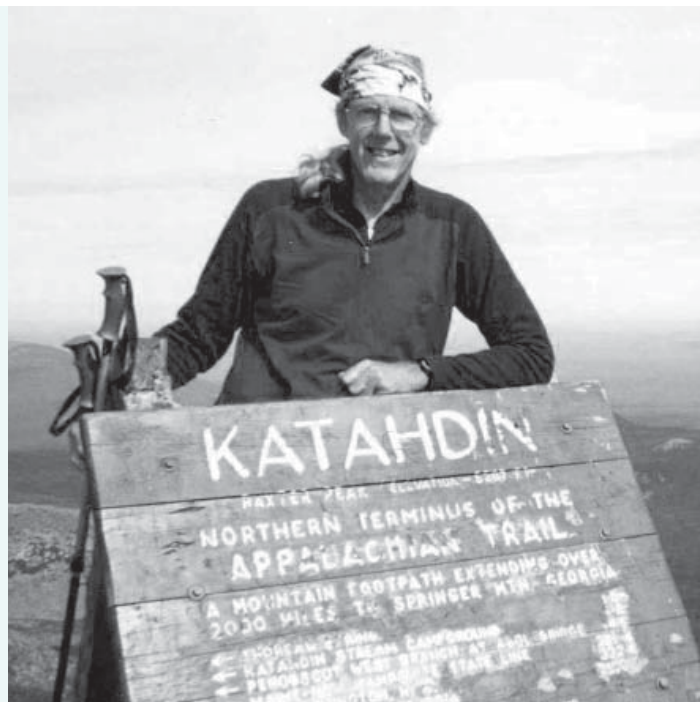
During his first year, Hirst hiked 900 miles before foot problems interrupted his journey. In April 2004, he began again, but had to stop in July. After a brief respite, he set out again, completing the entire 2,174-mile odyssey on September 22, 2004.

Altogether, Hirst was on the Appalachian Trail for a total of 220 days, hiking for 176 of them. The trials and tribulations of his hike seem to fade into the background when he talks about the experience of hiking through the pristine wilderness.

"It is hard to relate what I felt in my heart and mind as I traveled," he said.

At 67, Hirst admits he is not ready to slow down. Since finishing the Appalachian Trail in 2004, he and his wife, Janet, have hiked the 192-mile Sea-to-Sea trail in England. He is now planning to hike the Eastern Continental Trail, which will take him from Key West to Quebec.

- Kimberly R. Williams



Peter Hirst, '71, at the conclusion of his 2,174-mile trek along the Appalachian Trail.

Alumni Use of the Bartley Center

The David M. Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation (Bartley Center), a 45,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility, is available to HCC alumni (HCC graduates and alumni who accrued at least nine credits before leaving HCC) on a fee basis.

The Bartley Center has a three-court gymnasium to accommodate basketball, volleyball, tennis, golf, etc.; full locker rooms, steam baths, and saunas; and a fitness/wellness room.

The fitness/wellness room features more than 60 pieces of aerobic and weight training equipment.

You can receive an alumni membership for \$200/year, \$80/fall or spring semester, or \$70/summer semester. For an application, call the Alumni Office, (413) 552-2253, and leave your full name, address, city, and zip code, and a phone number where we can reach you.

Please contact Mike Carney, manager of fitness and wellness, for more information about the center, (413) 552-2159, or email: mcarney@hcc.mass.edu.

Class Notes

Class Notes

1966

Norene Roberts attained a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota in 1978. Formerly a master gardener in Minnesota, Roberts captured Massachusetts' highest agricultural award in 2005 for a pint of fresh blueberries that she grew on her Goshen, Massachusetts, farm. She has fond memories of seeing dinosaur prints in the shale and building tree forts on the Sheehan property, where the HCC campus is now located.

1969

Thomas (Tim) Y. McDowell is superintendent of schools for Westfield, Massachusetts, and is president of the New England Association of School Superintendents.

1974

The Executive Director of Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Inc. since 1979, Janis Santos was elected in July 2005 to a two-year term as vice chair of the National Head Start Association Board of Directors. Santos has represented the 130 New England and Early Head Start programs on the NHSA Board since 1997. The National Head Start Association represents 200,000 staff and 2,700 Head Start programs in the United States, serving more than 1 million Head Start children and their families.

1990

Timothy Ranney-Blake is a help-line associate for "Stop It Now!" a national organization dedicated to preventing and interrupting child sexual abuse. His position draws on his background in early childhood education and his many years working with children and their families. "Stop It Now!" uses a public health approach to raising awareness about this issue, similar to the public service campaigns used by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and anti-smoking campaigns. The website is www.stopitnow.org and the help line number is (800)-PREVENT

1992

Todd A. McGee has joined the law firm of Bacon & Wilson, P.C. in Springfield. He earned his B.A. from Northeastern University, his L.L.M. from Boston University, and his J.D. degree from New England College of Law. His practice concentrates on complex estate planning issues in Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as guardianship, conservatorship, and planning for long-term care. He was elected to the Holyoke City Council in the fall of 2005.

1995

Amy (Henault) Kelly is living in Florida and is doing freelance work as an artist. She makes murals, portraits, and drawings and teaches art classes to home-schooled children at the elementary level.



Heidi Nowak Leonard '98

1998

Heidi Nowak Leonard has been appointed mortgage consultant for the PeoplesBank Westfield Office. She will develop residential mortgage business in Agawam, Blandford, Feeding Hills, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick, West Springfield, and Westfield. A resident of Westfield, Leonard founded and served as president of the Westfield Chapter of Business Network International (BNI) and is a Big Sister for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampden County.

Tama Chambers was hired as the full-time GED/CLEP administrator at HCC in June 2005. After earning her associate degree with high honors from HCC, Chambers received her bachelor's degree from Smith College. She has worked at HCC since 2003 in various capacities: as a test examiner for the GED Testing Center, a teaching assistant for the Jumpstart Program, an academic advisor to early childhood majors, and as an adjunct faculty member in the theater department.



Kelly Champagne 03

2003

Kelly Champagne was hired as an ITD Technical Trainer at HCC in October 2005. While studying computer science at HCC, Champagne worked at the information technology division's help desk, where she managed jobs associated with maintaining the college's technology infrastructure. Additionally, she assisted in the management of the college's website and provided support to end user problems. Champagne's in-depth knowledge of the HCC communications system will serve her well as she trains 7,000 clients at HCC on the "Luminis Portal," the new web-based information system, this year.

continues on facing page

Faculty & Staff Notes

In July 2005, retired HCC music professor Sidney Bertram Smith published a new book, *Classical Musicians Speak Out as a New Century Begins* (Melrose Books, \$22.99).

"I spoke with over 150 professional musicians from 30 countries," said Smith. "The voices of the musicians in this book vividly reveal the vital passion that motivates a life in music."

A recipient of the HCC Distinguished Service Award, Smith retired from HCC in 1985. He and his wife Beverly, an HCC alum, reside in Rocky River, Ohio.

In Memoriam

Six members of the HCC community passed away this year. We mourn the loss of James T. Brennan '79, Walter E. Bielanski '81, Sandra T. Boudreau '90, Kevin S. Hamel '84, Desmond Tynan, and Gene Chevalier.

HCC Alumni Privileges

Alumni Status

All HCC students who graduate with an associate degree or complete a certificate program qualify for alumni status. Their names and addresses are added to the HCC alumni database upon graduation.

Non-graduate former students who have completed at least nine credit hours in good academic standing may also request alumni status by calling the alumni office at (413) 552-2253 Monday through Friday, noon-7:00 p.m.

Alumni Privileges

An HCC alumni I.D. card entitles an alum to the following privileges:

- Use of the student computer labs on campus. Alumni using college computers must observe college computer use policies and follow instructions given by the college computer lab staff.
- Use of the HCC Library. For lending privileges, alumni must also have a valid Massachusetts picture I.D. To request an HCC alumni I.D. card call Joanna Brown. Allow one week for mail delivery.
- Use of the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation, per the alumni membership fee structure (please see Bartley Center membership information on page 13).
- Use of the Career Resources Center in Frost 269. There, alumni may access online job banks, take computerized skills and interests inventories to explore career possibilities, and update their résumés.
- Use of college facilities by alumni is on a space-available basis, with currently enrolled students having priority for computer, career center, and athletic resources. Due to tight parking availability on campus, alumni are required to park in student parking lots until 4 p.m. After 4 p.m. on weekdays, alumni may park in faculty lots F, H, K, or L.

Class Notes/Change of Information/Comments

Name: _____ Class year: _____

Former name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Email address: _____

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

HCC Families

Please list the other members of your family who have attended HCC.

Name	Class year	Relation
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

ALUMNI CONNECTION

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Winter/Spring 2006 Events

HCC Jazz Festival

Friday and Saturday, March 24, 25

March 24, 8 p.m.: John Ambercrombie performs with the Amherst Jazz Orchestra. HCC Forum, \$8

March 25, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.: A series of free clinics and musical performances. For more information or to sign up for a clinic, call (413) 552-2458.

Fourth Annual Alumni/Student Nursing Supper

Thursday, March 30, 5:30-8 p.m.

HCC alumni nurses enjoy a buffet supper, networking opportunities, and the company of current RN and PN students. Dr. Ninon Amertil, dean of nursing, will deliver the keynote address. Free to HCC alumni, nursing students, faculty, staff, and emeriti. To register, please send an email to jbrown@hcc.mass.edu with a subject of "HCC Nursing Supper" and your full name and phone number in the email message, or call (413) 552-2253.

29th Annual Alumni Award Dinner

Thursday, May 4, 5:15-9 p.m.

The Distinguished Alumni Award for 2005-2006 will be presented to Ed Mazur '78, owner of Kapinos Mazur Funeral Home in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Regular and sponsor tickets are available for this award dinner, which is also a scholarship benefit. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, April 12. To receive an invitation to this event, please call (413) 552-2546.



Meet Dr. Ninon Amertil, the dean of HCC's new Division of Nursing, at the Fourth Annual Alumni/Student Nursing Supper, March 30, 5:30-8 p.m.

Holyoke Civic Symphony featuring Conductor David Kidwell

Sunday, March 12, 3 p.m., free, HCC Forum

A concert of French and Russian masterpieces

Sunday, May 7, 3 p.m., free, HCC Forum

A concert of Gershwin tunes

Kittredge Center grand opening.

Mid-May

To receive an invitation, please call (413) 552-2546.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE