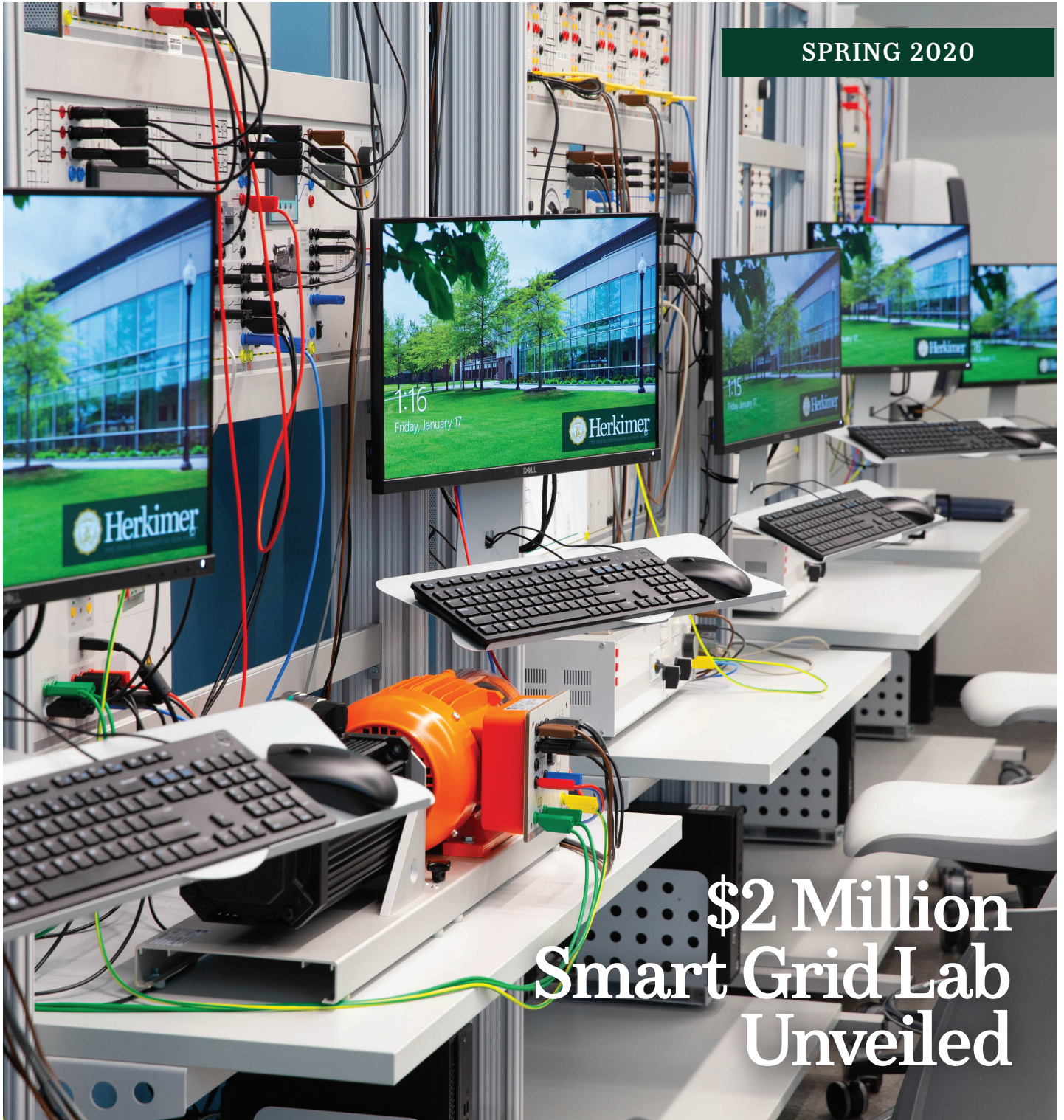




Herkimer
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Connections

SPRING 2020



\$2 Million
Smart Grid Lab
Unveiled

Photo: New York Power Authority

A Magazine for the Alumni & Friends of Herkimer College

Connections is a publication of Herkimer College and the Herkimer County College Foundation. It is published twice per year and distributed to alumni and friends of the College. Send feedback to: Rebecca Ruffing, Director of PR, Herkimer College, 100 Reservoir Rd, Herkimer, NY 13350 or rebecca.ruffing@herkimer.edu.

Editor

Rebecca J. Ruffing

Contributors

Kira Maddox
Anne Whiting '10

Photography

Susan Kahn
Taylor Manley '17
New York Power Authority

Art Direction and Design

Cynthia Courtney

College President

Cathleen C. McColgin, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Foundation

Robert Fowler

Foundation President

Frank J. Kapusta '83

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Update on Middle States Reaccreditation

Over the past year, we have been conducting a self-study as part of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (msche.org) reaccreditation process. At the time of this writing, we are preparing for a peer review evaluation team visit to take place in early April. Our self-study steering committee and work groups have worked diligently to research and write a self-study report that will be submitted to the evaluation team in anticipation of their campus visit. I remain optimistic about the outcome of our self-study and thank everyone involved for their time and effort throughout the reaccreditation process.

Ways to give to Herkimer College

Donations to the Herkimer County College Foundation help us provide scholarships for deserving students and advance the College's most important goals. We depend on the generosity of our alumni and friends to improve the quality of the Herkimer College experience.

There are many ways you can support Herkimer College.

Contact Us

For more information or to suggest another way you'd like to support the Foundation, please contact Rob Fowler, Executive Director, Herkimer County College Foundation, at 315-574-4015.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE President

DR. CATHLEEN C. MCCOLGIN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The arrival of a new decade gives us reason to pause to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

Like most community colleges nationally, Herkimer has experienced enrollment challenges due, in large part, to the economic climate and changing demographics. As a result, we have become more resilient, efficient, creative and student-centered, allowing us to make great progress in many areas. This issue of Connections provides a small sampling of our most recent initiatives – including the debut of our new Electrical Technology Smart Grid Lab and the announcement of our esports program.

According to a recent report published by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, associate degrees remain “a viable, affordable and relatively fast route to economic opportunity for many students.” The report examines the labor market value of associate degrees and certificate programs, finding that field of study especially influences future earnings. Workers with associate degrees in engineering technologies and health professions out-earn those with associate degrees in other fields in nearly every state.

At Herkimer, new associate degree programs continue to be developed, only after completing a feasibility study that includes analysis of career outlooks and workforce demands. Most recently, we introduced new associate degrees in Health Professions, Electrical Technology, Supply Chain Management and Communication and Media. Existing programs have been reworked to keep pace with workforce needs – examples include Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics and Computer & Network Security. We are awaiting approval from the State Education Department to reintroduce the Engineering Science program to meet the needs of

industry in our region.

Herkimer has a strong history as a pioneer among community colleges, leading the way in online learning, on-campus housing and athletics. As we move into the '20s, we stand poised to continue on a successful path with new and innovative academic programs, unique partnerships and pathways, and a steadfast culture of community and support. With many projects and programs in various stages of implementation, I am confident this institution will weather the challenges and continue to be a leader among community colleges.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our faculty, staff and board members who are committed to the success of our students and our community. I am also very grateful to our alumni and friends who support Herkimer College, whether it be through donations to the Foundation, service on advisory committees, or attending campus events. You are all very important to us, and we thank you for your support and friendship.

Sincerely,



Cathleen C. McColgin, Ph.D.
President



Save the Date!

Saturday, October 3, 2020
Noon-4 p.m.
Rain or Shine

Herkimer

FALL FEST & ALUMNI WEEKEND

Music, games, food, art show, wagon rides, car show, tours & much more. Students, parents, families, alumni and the community are invited!



Herkimer

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

100 Reservoir Road | Herkimer, New York 13350

For more information visit www.herkimer.edu/fallfest
or email alumni@herkimer.edu

28th
annual

GENERALS OPEN

Golf Tournament

MONDAY, JUNE 8

SHOTGUN START 10 A.M.

www.herkimer.edu/golf

315-574-4015

Mohawk Valley Country Club



PHOTO: TIM BLACK

with special guest artist, Robert Mirabal



ETHEL and Robert Mirabal, Native American musician and three-time GRAMMY® Award winner, present THE RIVER. The inspiration is Water as the embodiment of Spirit. The audience is immersed in a flow of music, narrative, and ritual that evokes timeless Native American traditions through contemporary musical artistry.

Friday, April 24 | 7:00 PM

Sarkus-Busch Theater | Herkimer College
Free and open to the public.

Herkimer | FOUNDATION
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A MESSAGE FROM THE Foundation Director

ROBERT FOWLER

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I thought that for this issue of Connections I would try to provide you with updates on many of the projects I've mentioned in prior issues. So let's take a look.

The Electrical Technology Smart Grid Lab, which supports the new Electrical Technology program at Herkimer College, is ready to go, thanks in part to a \$96,000 grant the Foundation obtained from the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

The Foundation provided start-up monies to the College for the establishment of the Generals Cupboard, a food pantry to assist our students in need. The Generals Cupboard has already had such an impact that it's being relocated to a larger space on campus in order to meet the demand.

Our championship caliber women's softball team will be able to actually see the score of its games thanks to our friends at Excellus and their support for acquiring a brand new scoreboard. A little cooperation from Mother Nature and our team will be ready to dominate on the field again!

A new swimming scoreboard and timing system have been installed. A big thank you to the Cristman family for their unwavering support of Herkimer College and our swimming program.

Those are but a few of the projects we've recently been able to accomplish, and now we're moving on toward an entirely new set of objectives and projects, including several campus facilities, from classrooms to athletic fields. I look forward to sharing the details of it all with you in the coming months.

I've mentioned in the past how enjoyable it's been to meet so many of our alumni. This year I'd like to do a lot more of that, and it's my intention to get out and visit with more of you. I'm planning to host some alumni dinners and functions in various areas of the state, so please watch for announcements of when and where those will be occurring.

Thank you for your dedication to Herkimer College and for your support of the Herkimer County College Foundation.

Sincerely,



Rob Fowler, Executive Director
Herkimer County College Foundation



HEATHER IS A SELF-DESCRIBED

“art education enthusiast.”



SHE EARNED A DEGREE IN ART STUDIES AT HERKIMER COLLEGE AND AT THE SAME TIME, FOUND HER SOUL MATE.

By Ann Whiting '10 Photos by Taylor Manley '17

Growing up, Heather McCutcheon knew she wanted to teach art. “In middle school, I was so excited [to have an art teacher]. When I was first looking at art education programs, I was drawn to the fact that Herkimer College had an art degree transfer agreement with SUNY Oswego.”

Heather has taught art at the K-12 level for many years in the Herkimer Central School District, but her education in the arts hasn't stopped within the school walls. “I like to have community involvement, so it's not just in the classroom,” she explains.

Heather enjoys helping her students get involved in the community. She has overseen projects like organizing local high school students to paint a mural at the Herkimer VFW and a vinyl sticker design initiative that helped spread a positive message while giving students practical experience.

“My favorite part of teaching is building relationships with students. I love creating with them and learning with them, but when you build relationships – that's what teaching is all about.”

MATTHEW ALWAYS WANTED A CAREER IN ART

“My father has been an artist his entire life, so I was sort of born into it.” After high school, the budding artist chose to attend Herkimer College. “I didn't want to travel, and I grew up in the area.” There he met his future wife. “We were in a few classes together – we took chemistry together and a few art classes.”

Matthew jumped straight into a career after graduation in 2005, and for five years he worked for Serianni Signs in Frankfort, New York. “I learned so much from Paul [Serianni] there,” he recalls. “So much about placing vinyl and making signs.”

That experience helped prepare him for his current job at McCraith Beverages. Matthew is the entirety of the graphics department there. “My job is all over the board. I do a lot of price signs, truck wraps, cooler wraps, and so on. You don't necessarily think about the fact that it takes an artist to make a simple price sign or the card at a bar that says ‘now serving.’”

“Back in the day, being an artist was sort of like, ‘you can be a painter or a potter – pick one’. But today's world has expanded that; there are a lot of options.” ■

“I loved the classes with Bruce Schwabach, especially 3-Dimensional Design. I actually met my husband in one of his classes!”



Heather is active in several art education organizations throughout New York state.

- Co-chair for Region 3 of the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA)
- 2016 NYSATA Art Teacher of the Year
- 2015 Herkimer County Teacher of the Year for Integration Technology
- Co-chair for the statewide Youth Art Month (YAM)

HEATHER '03 AND MATTHEW '05 MCCUTCHEON

THE ROAD TO Professional Baseball

By Ann Whiting '10

It takes more than athletic ability to make it in minor league baseball, but Joe Kuzia '13 made his choice, worked hard, and landed a pitching position with the Texas Rangers.

Still, the road hasn't been *easy* or *straight*.

After signing as a pitcher for Manchester Community College, the baseball program was canceled two weeks before classes started. A coach suggested Kuzia apply at Herkimer College, a move Kuzia says changed him for the better.

“Coach Jason Rathbun was very memorable. He changed me, matured me big time. In high school, I sort of bounced off the walls, but he simmered me down. He prepared me for life — how to take care of yourself even for when you're older.

“But it was the people I met that are my favorite memories. In high school, I'd never played with people from other states. It was eye-opening to talk with people from Texas or Florida or California. I'm still closer to the people I met at Herkimer than the people around my home.”

After Herkimer College, Kuzia played for St. John's University. Despite an excellent junior year, he was never drafted by a professional team. So he joined a CanAm team for the spring of 2016. “It wasn't the best year,” Kuzia admits, “but it was something to do. I wanted to play.”

At the end of the season, Kuzia faced a choice: work in his father's HVAC business, or continue baseball training with his younger brother Nick's trainer (Nick also went into professional baseball, now playing for the San Diego Padres).



Kuzia chose to continue with baseball.

The next year, Kuzia played for the Bridgeport Bluefish and the New Britain Bees. Back at home, Kuzia's former St. John's coach saw him play. “He called up some scouts, which resulted in tryouts with the Mets — which didn't work out — and the Rangers.” A few days after pitching for the Rangers, he received an offer.

With the Rangers, Kuzia fluctuated between Short A and Low A status. Finally, one of the coaches told him he had great potential, but that he needed to step up his act. In the spring, three of the Rangers' front office staff called Kuzia in with an ultimatum: He could be honorably released from the minor league, or he could continue to play through spring training and hope another opportunity materialized. “It was a real wake-up call for me,” Kuzia admits. “I knew I still wanted to play baseball.”

The opportunity finally came — first to fill in on the Nashville Sounds, the Rangers' AAA affiliate, then for a full-time position on a High A affiliate. “I was ecstatic!”

Kuzia has proved himself with the Nashville Sounds and was named Best Reliever in the league. “It opened my eyes to what I was capable of doing,” he says.

In the future, Kuzia wants to continue playing baseball. “It's been a rocky course for me this year,” he admits. “But [my baseball career] has been unique since day one.” ■

ALUM PROMOTED TO TOP ARMY WARRANT OFFICER RANK

David Van Vechten Jr., originally from Herkimer, was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 5 in a ceremony held on Eskan Village in Riyadh Saudi Arabia on November 26, 2019. Van Vechten's effective date of rank was November 1, but the ceremony was delayed so his family could attend the special occasion. There are under 200 Active Duty Aviation CW5's in the entire Army, and historically, less than 10 percent achieve the rank.

Van Vechten is a 1994 West Canada Valley High School graduate, joined the Army in July 1994 and earned his associate degree in business administration from Herkimer County Community College in 1999. David attended Army Warrant Officer School (WOCS) followed by flight school in 2001. While serving on active duty, he earned his bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics and his master's degree in aeronautics, both from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU).

Van Vechten is a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter Instructor Pilot currently serving as a Senior Aviation Advisor with the Officer of the Program Manager, Saudi Arabian National Guard (OPM-SANG). He has had numerous aviation assignments around the world including the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Drum, New York, where he completed three combat tours; one to Iraq and two to Afghanistan. Van Vechten has also served in Egypt and most recently in Camp Humphreys South Korea.

Following his assignment in Saudi Arabia, Van Vechten will be joined by his family at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he will serve as the Brigade Standardization Pilot for "The Army Aviation Brigade" (TAAB). David and his wife Sonya (Hula) met while students at Herkimer College and have been married since 2000. They have two children – David III, 18 (freshman at Colorado University at Boulder), and Victoria, 6. David is the son of the late David E. Van Vechten Sr. and Colleen Van Vechten, a Herkimer resident and an associate in the Human Resources Office at Herkimer College.



We're looking for feedback . . .

Reader Survey

We are asking for a few moments of your time to share your opinions and suggestions regarding the *Connections* magazine. By answering a few short questions, you're helping us understand what you, as a reader, expect to see in this magazine.

Please take our reader survey at:
www.herkimer.edu/survey

**Thank you,
in advance,
for your time
and support
of Herkimer
College!**



In Memoriam

Herkimer College extends its sincere sympathy to the families of deceased alumni and members of the Herkimer College family.

Ralph Paladino '70

Kay Bell '78

Janice F. Burling '80

Toffee M. "Chip" Hadity '82

William P. Juteau '83

David J. Blanchard '83

Faye Ann Urich Buk '86

Russell J. Small '88

John J. Capraro '97

Dale C. Turner '99

Lansing M. Anderson '01

Musician/recording artist says

thanks to Herkimer

for giving him his start.

By Kira Maddox

FOR **LUCIANO REYES '12**, HERKIMER COLLEGE WAS A MUCH-NEEDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY.



After getting a stable foundation in music, he's positioning himself as a budding musician and industry guru in New York City.

"It's been a long time, but these goals I've set for myself are finally starting to come to life," Reyes said.

Growing up in Putnam County, Reyes had a lifelong interest in music. A recording studio in his high school made the transition to songwriting and mixing seamless. "Once I discovered one thing, I just kept going down this road."

When it came time to look at higher education, Reyes said he was drawn to Herkimer because of its small-town feel and affordability as a two-year school. It also had a program he was interested in: Music Industry. This gave him the background knowledge and theory understanding he said he was lacking. Joining poetry and music clubs helped hone his spoken word skills and lyricism.

Not unlike other first-year college students, Reyes said he had a rocky first semester but was able to knuckle down after joining the men's swimming team. Being a part of a team motivated him to work harder — sometimes being the first one at practice and the last one to leave — and ensured he kept his grades up.



“At Herk, I really unlocked pieces of myself,” Reyes said. “It’s the first time I looked myself in the mirror and challenged myself, and I felt like I could do anything. I did so much I didn’t think I could.”

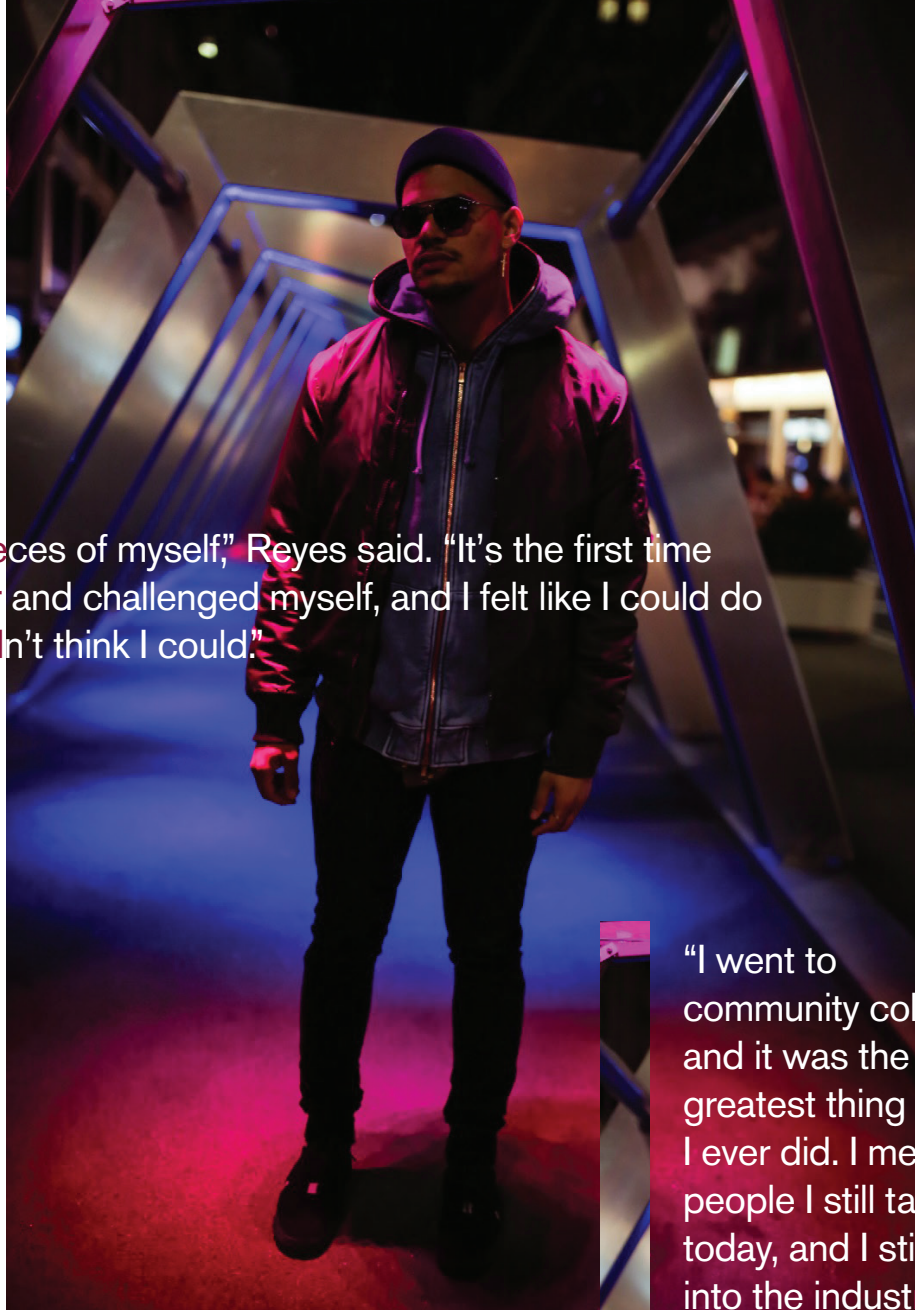
Reyes took a gap year after earning his associate degree and roamed upstate New York with friend and fellow Herkimer alum Justin Sommers. The pair formed a musical duo, and for a while it was just them and the next stage lights. But eventually Reyes said he began to feel lost and directionless just picking up odd jobs.

Reyes continued his education at Baruch College in Manhattan for management musical enterprises. His goals began to change. Instead of just making music, Reyes said he wanted to learn more of the business side. He interned with Ultra Records learning mechanical licensing and now works for Royalty Solutions, a third-party company for record labels handling licensing, royalty statements, etc.

Reyes works in the morning and spends his nights making music under his stage name “LUCKY!” playing shows and trying to network throughout the New York City burrows. He and his roommates turned a room in their apartment into a personal music studio. He networks

at office parties and said he’s always hitting the pavement, either looking for a new artist to collaborate with or shooting his own music videos. He’s performed at places like the legendary S.O.B.’s in SoHo, where Drake, Kendrick Lamar, Marc Anthony, and Celia Cruz have played gigs.

Looking forward, Reyes said he’ll be releasing more music (you can find him on Spotify and YouTube) and hopes to one day own his own music company. Looking back, he thanked Herkimer for helping him start on the right foot. ■



“I went to community college, and it was the greatest thing I ever did. I met people I still talk to today, and I still got into the industry I wanted to get in. **If people are going to take their own steps and make their own path, if it starts at Herk, then hell yeah!**”

LIGHTS ON FOR 2020 WITH DEBUT OF

\$2 million Electrical Technology Smart Grid Lab

Photos courtesy of New York Power Authority



HERKIMER COLLEGE IS DIVING INTO THE TURN OF THE DECADE BY DEBUTING THE NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY SMART GRID LAB.



The \$2 million state-of-the-art facility in Johnson Hall will be the main hub for students in the new Electrical Technology degree program, developed in partnership with Buffalo State College.

The associate in applied science degree will prepare students with the skills necessary for careers in the design, application, installation, manufacturing and operation and/or maintenance of electrical/electronic(s) systems, with a focus on smart grid technologies. Graduates of the program may choose to pursue a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology or a related field.



The Electrical Technology Smart Grid Lab will also be available for any utility company’s workforce development needs.

The space was made possible by an investment of \$949,000 made by the New York Power Authority. Another \$96,000 was contributed by the Community Foundation of Herkimer and

Oneida Counties, M&T Bank Fund. The other 50 percent of the funding for the project was secured through matching funds from the State University of New York.

Rabab Hassan, of New Hartford, New York, has been appointed as an assistant professor and will teach multiple courses in the program, including

renewable/clean energy and power systems applications. She was an electrical engineer for the Mansoura for Resins and Chemical Industries Co. in Egypt and is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the National Society of Black Engineers, and the Society of Women Engineers. She previously taught digital electronics at Mohawk Valley Community College and physics at Utica College and SUNY Polytechnic Institute.

Hassan is also a member of Eta Kappa Nu, the IEEE’s international honor society, and has a special interest in renewable energy – especially solar and wind – microgrids, and distributed generation. ■

Rabab Hassan, Assistant Professor

Education: Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

Professional Affiliations: IEEE, HKN

Q What is something unique or important for people to know about your program?

A The Electrical Technology program at Herkimer College is a unique place to start a career in technology. Students learn the required skills to secure jobs in the field of power and renewable energy. Being in the SUNY system allows graduates to seamlessly transfer to a four-year school in the SUNY system. Our students benefit from brand new state-of-the-art technology in the labs, and our small class sizes (especially in labs) provide an excellent hands-on experience for students. Lastly, our location is close to many industrial companies in upstate New York providing many opportunities for our students and alumni.

Q What inspired you to become an educator?

A As a female engineer, I believe in education for everyone especially girls, minorities, and underrepresented groups everywhere. Attracting students to the STEM field is my passion. That is why I decided to be an educator – to help students, especially from the aforementioned groups, to pursue careers in STEM.

Q What do students need to know in order to succeed in college?

A Three main factors to success: study hard, be proactive, and time management.

Q What do you find most rewarding about teaching and why?

A I get rewarded every time I see the student evaluations and every time I see the “AHA” moments that indicate students’ understanding. Moreover, helping students to help themselves in education and in their career is a great feeling.

Q What new courses do you hope to teach in the future?

A Renewable energy and smart grid.

Q What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

A Tennis and traveling.



No student hungry: Herkimer College opens on-campus food pantry

By Kira Maddox

Think about what it feels like to be hungry: the gnawing in your stomach, the dull pound of an oncoming headache, the dizziness and fatigue of running on empty. Now imagine feeling that sensation all day – sometimes every day – while trying to focus on classwork and lectures and exams.

Food insecurity is a growing concern on college campuses nationwide. A recent study by the

Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice found that approximately 48 percent of surveyed students in two-year institutions across the U.S. experienced

food insecurity within the last 30 days. More than half said

they worried whether their food would run out before they had money to buy more, and 27 percent reported skipping meals because they had no food.

To ensure all students have adequate access to nutrition, Herkimer College opened the

doors to The General's Cupboard in September 2019. The Cupboard is a free, on-campus resource for all Herkimer College students stocking a variety of canned and packaged food and other non-perishable items, as well as personal care items.

Students are encouraged to come in and “shop” during the Cupboard’s open hours, or to make individual appointments. Not only is the Cupboard combating hunger, but it’s cultivating a new community on campus.

Students who use the Cupboard are self-reflective and will put things back or pass items by if there isn’t a true need – or, even better, will offer to share with other students if a certain product is low, observed staff member Paula Moore. The student and staff volunteers make the space fun with music and conversation, decreasing any fears of stigma or judgment. “We’ve come to this place where everyone is comfortable. No one is being greedy.”

The added trust has also allowed Moore to help students in other ways. Moore works in the College’s





Advisement Center and said students will recognize her from her work in the Cupboard. This makes it easier to start conversations about things like class registration and academics.

With the addition of the Cupboard, Herkimer joins a growing trend throughout the State University of New York system to address student hunger. Nearly 90 percent of all SUNY and CUNY schools have either an on-campus food pantry or other stigma-free food access for students in need, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office.

The Cupboard has also led to community partnerships. Because the pantry is run on donations, Herkimer College works closely with the Food Bank of CNY, Walmart Distribution Center in Marcy, the Compassion Coalition, American Dining Creations, and the Little Falls Knitting Group — which donates handmade winter wear. The Herkimer County College Foundation contributed \$2,500 in funds to help the

Cupboard get started, and the Herkimer County Hunger Coalition and Frankfort Kiwanis recently announced generous donations.

Moore called working in the Cupboard her “saving grace.” As a natural giver, being heavily involved in mentorship through Kids Oneida and a home educator for number of years, she said she loves how the General's Cupboard helps students in an active, hands-on way.

“I hit the jackpot to be able to do something from my heart.”



“I love that I can form genuine relationships with the students. I love knowing their names and where they're from, and seeing them share recipes with each other and get excited when certain items are in stock.”

Paula Moore, General's Cupboard staff

Celebrating four icons

IN HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S HISTORY

Four icons in Herkimer County Community College's history were celebrated at the 2019 Torchbearer Awards ceremony. The Torchbearer Awards have been presented every five years since 1999 to recognize individuals who have made substantial contributions to the College's development, with particular attention given to those whose contributions were made in the first 20 years of the College's history.

President Cathleen McColgin praised this year's recipients for their "hard work and belief in our college and our students" and how these individuals "helped make Herkimer County Community College the great institution of higher education that it is today."

Read more about them at Herkimer.edu/torchbearer.



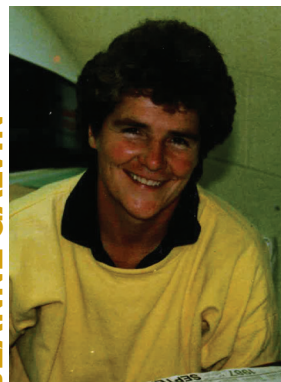
DONALD J. SNYDER



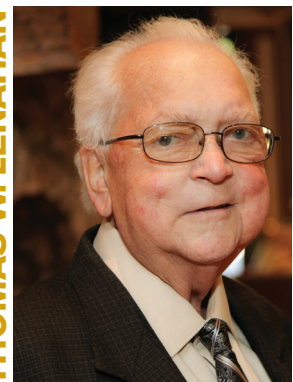
RONALD F. WILLIAMS



JEANNE GALVIN



THOMAS W. LENAHAN



Phaethon named Best Community College Magazine

The 2019 edition of *Phaethon*, Herkimer College's annual literary and arts publication, was named "best magazine in the small college eastern division" by the Community College Humanities Association. Multiple students also took home individual accolades for their contributions to the magazine:

- **SKYELER BRODKORB**, first place, creative non-fiction
- **AUBREY KETCHAM**, second place, fiction
- **ALYSSA PATTERSON**, second place, artwork

This is the magazine's first time being recognized as the best magazine in its division and also places *Phaethon* in the Top 10 publications in the nation, regardless of size.

This award-winning issue's student editors were fiction editor Elizabeth McDonald, Liberal Arts and Sciences: Science, and visual editors Julianna Finnerty, Business

Administration; Andrew Gaillard, General Studies; Shaun McGraw, Communication Arts: New Media; and Ronald West, Communication Arts: New Media.



"I'm immensely proud of the accomplishments of our student editors and contributors," said Blake Pitcher, one of three faculty advisers for the magazine. "This issue of *Phaethon* reflects the work of almost 30 students in 10 different majors. The first-place recognition by the CCHA is akin to winning a national championship in the Humanities and highlights the importance art and literature has in the lives of students throughout our campus."

Online programs earn national rankings

Two programs through Herkimer College's Internet Academy have been named some of the top in the nation for their respective fields of study, thanks to their course strength, affordability and the quality of the overall experience.

The **online Marketing A.A.S. degree** helped Herkimer College rank 18th in the nation by TheBestSchools.org on their 2019 list of top online associate degree programs in marketing. This 64 credit program prepares students for entry-level marketing careers or to successfully transfer to bachelor's degree programs. Students earning this degree engage with key topics such as advertising, business communications, business

law, customer service management, marketing, marketing management and principles of management.

The College's **online Medical Coding/Transcriptionist certificate** has been named one of the top programs of its kind in the nation by Intelligent.com when compared to 243 similar programs. The school also received a special nod for Best Transfer Services and was the only SUNY affiliate to make the list. The 30 credit certificate gives students the opportunity to gain entry-level skills, including identifying and applying correct codes for certain diagnoses and surgical procedures, understanding a variety of medical terms, and gaining familiarity with several types of medical forms.

CONGRATULATIONS!

RECENT FACULTY PROMOTIONS

(effective September 1, 2019):

ROCCO CORNACCHIA

Instructor to Assistant Professor of Mathematics

LINDSEY TAUBE

Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Mathematics

JENNIFER HERZOG

Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Biology

DR. JOHN MCLEAN

Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Social Science



Senior Kelsey Denton and Jeffrey Steele

associate professor of history/social science, contributed to the Herkimer County Historical Society's

book *Murder & Mayhem in Herkimer County*, chronicling "the most fascinating historical murder cases in Herkimer County."

Dr. Nicole McDaniels, associate professor of biology, was recognized by the Genesis Group with the 2019 Striving for Success award for dedication to her profession and community.

Senior Admissions Assistant **Clare Burth** was named a Campus Angel by On Point for College. These individuals are caring and supportive individuals "who believe in the mission of On Point for College and are willing to guide, direct, and support On Point students while on campus."

Cynthia Gabriel, Professor of English, and **Linda Lamb**, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for Internet Academy and Continuing Education, were selected as Open SUNY Online Teaching Ambassadors. Nominees for this award are considered exemplary online SUNY educators, who are enthusiastic and effective in online teaching, and who can

be positive and strong advocate for online teaching in our SUNY community.

The Advisement Center and **Marjorie Moore**, director of the Academic Support Center, were honored at the 14th annual Celebration of Education, hosted by the Genesis Group.

The event recognizes outstanding educators and programs in Central New York.



SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION TAKES ON A NEW FORM:

Collegiate Recovery Program

HERKIMER COLLEGE STUDENTS STRUGGLING WITH RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE USE CAN NOW GET ADDITIONAL SUPPORT, THANKS TO THE NEWLY LAUNCHED COLLEGIATE RECOVERY PROGRAM (CRP).



Called Students Thriving at Recovery (STAR), the mission of the program is to create a culture of empowerment, support, and opportunity for Herkimer College students in recovery to thrive.

The program is designed to provide an educational opportunity alongside recovery support to ensure students do not have to sacrifice one for the other.

The College was awarded a \$20,000 grant in January 2019 by the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to help form the CRP. The funds went toward Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART) support group training, recovery coaching training, developing “natural high weekends” – like a trip to Syracuse’s Destiny USA mall – and bringing various health and wellness classes to campus.

About 92 to 94 percent of students who participate in a CRP maintain their recovery and

do not return to substance use, according to the Association of Recovery in Higher Education. Similarly, 68 percent of surveyed former CRP students said participating in the programs helped prepare them for careers, while 81 percent said their CRP prepared them for the path toward post-grad recovery, according to association data.

In establishing a CRP on campus, Herkimer College joins a growing nationwide movement. As of May 2019, there were 131 CRPs in the United States, and 30 of SUNY’s 64 campuses had developed CRPs.

“I think this is a good initiative for the College because we want to promote that we are an all-inclusive college, that we welcome all types of students no matter what their struggles are, including that of recovery of substance use,” Herkimer College Prevention Specialist Laura Jacquays said.

As part of the initiative, Building I of College Hill has been designated a Health and Wellness residence hall, where students must sign a contract stating they will be substance free in order to stay in the building. Similarly, Room 223 of the Robert McLaughlin College Center has been made the official Collegiate Recovery Room for group sessions, weekly meetings, quiet space, and more. ■

SIMPLE PLEASURES ABOUND AT FACULTY-OWNED BOARD GAME CAFE

By Kira Maddox

A Herkimer College faculty member and alum can now add “business owner” to his resume, after opening his own board game café in Little Falls, New York.

Meeples Mug House, operated by English instructor Matthew Powers '03, sits at 598 East Main Street, just 17 minutes east of campus, and was a slow-burn calling for Powers. Powers said he's been interested in traditional board and theater-of-the-mind games – like Dungeons & Dragons – since he was an early teenager. The prevalence of board game cafés nationwide, mixed with input from his home board game sessions, made him curious about creating a new space in Herkimer County.

When former café Happy Waffle closed its doors at the Main Street location, it was almost like a calling. “I knew in that moment, if I didn't go for it, I would have regretted it,” Powers said.

While Powers doesn't have formal business training – he was a humanities student at Herkimer College and later went to SUNY Geneseo and the University of Rochester for a master's degree in poetry and theater – the fresh idea and support from the community has created a flourishing business.

The café is open in the evenings and afternoons four days a week. On top of its 150+ title board game collection, the

space also sports a light menu with a variety of grilled cheese paninis (with on-brand names like “Game Piece Caprese” and “Nacho Turn Yet”), coffees, mug cakes for dessert and more. They also host monthly events like open mic nights, movie screenings, and Dungeons & Donuts, one-shot campaigns for anyone interested in playing dungeons and dragons.

While some may think a business around something as seemingly old-fashioned as board games has no lifeline in a world of virtual reality gaming and online player-versus-player capabilities, the markets show a different story.

But Powers said the biggest takeaway has been seeing the camaraderie build among strangers. “By a half hour, they're all laughing and smiling and having a great time,” he said. “That's an amazing trend I hope continues.”

While he keeps the business quiet in the classroom, cautious of respecting the dynamics of being a faculty member, he said Meeples has opened doors for him to get through to more students. As he learns about their stories, the café and board games give him something non-academic for students to relate to.

“I think it helped humanize me, in a way,” Powers said. “With students, that's really important.” ■



AROUND 30 PERCENT OF MILLENNIALS SAY THEY ARE INTERESTED IN VISITING A BOARD-GAME THEMED CAFÉ OR BAR, ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM MARKET RESEARCHERS MINTEL. ARIZTON ADVISORY & INTELLIGENCE REPORTED THAT THE GLOBAL BOARD GAMES MARKET SIZE IS EXPECTED TO REACH VALUES OF OVER \$12 BILLION BY 2023.



CYNTHIA WETMORE '80

By Ann Whiting '10

Wetmore

INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HALL OF FAME



Cynthia Wetmore '80, former head field hockey coach at SUNY Cortland, was inducted into the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in January 2020. Wetmore scored an unbroken record-setting 46 goals while playing for the Herkimer Generals field hockey team, helped lead the Generals in two national field hockey tournaments, and has coached the sport for more than 30 years.

“It’s very exciting,” Wetmore says of the induction. “It’s a sport I absolutely love.” However, she is hesitant to take the credit. “I didn’t win this by myself. There were so many people – my family, friends, the athletic staff and coaches, the players and their parents – it’s not just about me. I couldn’t have done it without their support and their hard work.”

Still, she has led some incredible teams. Her field hockey players have won numerous contests, including the 2001 NCAA Division III National Championship and 13 NCAA tournament appearances. They made three trips to the Final Four and took home 13 SUNYAC titles. Her SUNY Cortland lacrosse teams were also legendary, playing in nine NCAA tournaments, including the 2006 NCAA Final Four.

Wetmore has been an NFHCA National Coach of the Year and a five-time North Atlantic Region Coach of the Year, a seven-time SUNYAC Coach of the Year, and a two-time New York State Women’s Collegiate Athletic Association Coach of the Year.

Wetmore played field hockey in high school, but when asked why she chose to enroll at Herkimer College, she laughs. “Actually, I think my mom chose the school. I had been contacted by Coach Jeanne Galvin, and I remember taking one of those high school bus trips to the college.” For Wetmore, another part of the decision was that she would be able to play three sports: softball, women’s basketball, and – her favorite sport – field hockey. “Since fifth grade, I knew I wanted to be a physical education teacher. So the fact that Herkimer College had a transfer agreement for their physical education program to other New York state colleges was also part of the decision.”

Galvin was a major influence on Wetmore, both during her time at Herkimer and in her own coaching roles. “She really set the stage for me. Not just for playing field hockey or basketball, but she laid the foundation for my success as a coach.”

Coming from small town Beaver Falls, Wetmore also says she appreciated the closeness of the students and staff at Herkimer. “Everyone was very supportive. My fellow student-athletes and coaches – it set a course for success.”

While at Herkimer College, Wetmore scored 46 career goals and was named to the All-region Team, won the Region III Championship, and competed in the NJCAA national tournament. She was named Field Hockey MVP, first team All-Region, first team National Tournament, All-American, and Herkimer College’s Athlete of the Year.



Another of her favorite memories was traveling to England with the team, an opportunity provided by Coach Galvin and Coach Meagan Mihalko. “Playing internationally and learning from their coaches helps to develop your skill and knowledge,” Wetmore says. “Field hockey is the second most popular team sport in the world, so when you play internationally, you really see the difference in the sport.” After becoming a coach, Wetmore took her high school and college-level field hockey teams to Europe and Australia.

After Herkimer College, Wetmore earned a field hockey scholarship to the University of Rhode Island. “That was yet another thing [Herkimer College] provided for me,” she says. At URI, she also played lacrosse, which put her in good stead to coach the lacrosse team at SUNY Cortland several years later.

Wetmore earned her master’s degree in 1985 at Southern Illinois University and began her coaching career at the same time as an assistant coach for the women’s field hockey team. She later moved back to New York and took a position in the North Syracuse School District, starting the first lacrosse team at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. Wetmore grew the program into a two-time New York State Championship team (1995 and 1996) before moving to coach the varsity field hockey team. “The girl’s field hockey team hadn’t scored a goal in years and hadn’t won a game in even more years,” Wetmore recalls. But Wetmore loved the sport, and she set out to coach her

students. “I remember when they got their first goal – the players, the parents, everyone went crazy. The joy on their faces – it’s one of my all-time favorite coaching memories.”

In 1997, Wetmore became the head lacrosse coach at SUNY Cortland and the head field hockey coach the following year. “The students at Cortland were very driven, very talented.” One of her favorite memories of coaching was taking the Cortland field hockey team to the national championships in 2001 – Wetmore is the only Herkimer College alum to have done so. “It was great – that team, the emotion, everything coming together. It’s one of the beauties of coaching. Setting goals, working hard, and accomplishing those goals. Win or lose, you stay together.”

THE NFHCA HALL OF FAME WILL BE WETMORE’S SIXTH HALL OF FAME INDUCTION, AS SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE HERKIMER COLLEGE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME, SUNY CORTLAND C-CLUB HALL OF FAME, THE UPSTATE US LACROSSE HALL OF FAME, THE GREATER SYRACUSE HALL OF FAME FOR TEAM OF HONOR, AND THE UPSTATE LACROSSE HALL OF FAME FOR TEAM OF HONOR.

Wetmore knows she owes a great debt to Herkimer College. “It’s one of the best decisions of my life. The support, the community – it was life-changing for me. Coach Galvin, the other coaches, and the staff, I want them to know that I’m thankful for them.” ■

IN THE LEAGUE:

Herkimer College to debut esports in Fall 2020

HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WILL BE BRINGING COMPETITIVE VIDEO GAME PLAYING TO CAMPUS IN THE FALL WITH A SOFT LAUNCH OF ITS OFFICIAL ESPORTS ATHLETICS PROGRAM.

The College has been exploring the idea of creating esports at both the club and varsity levels for the past year. College representatives have visited several other colleges with esports teams to learn about their programs, technology and facilities, as well as academic programs related to esports.

Herkimer plans to launch its program with a limited number of esports teams playing games such as Super Smash Bros. and Rocket League. The program will expand with additional teams, games and equipment in the fall of 2021. Academic eligibility requirements will be the same for varsity esports as they are for all other NJCAA sports.

In a January announcement to the campus community, President Cathleen McColgin said bringing esports to Herkimer College will help garner interest in the College among prospective students, as 15 states now recognize esports as a high school varsity sport, according to Inside

Higher Education findings. Similarly, according to a recent article in EdTech Magazine, in 2018 the number of high schools with esports teams participating in the High School Esports League (HSEL) grew from 200 to more than 1,200. Additionally, there is a potential for developing new articulation agreements between Herkimer College's existing academic programs, such as Business Administration, and four-year colleges with bachelor's degrees specific to esports, marketing, video game design, etc.

McColgin also stressed the importance of strengthening the College's student-centered campus culture. "Participating in club or varsity esports teams provides a feeling of belonging and connectedness to the school and to their fellow students for some young people who might otherwise lack effective avenues for developing this sense of community and school pride."

WOMEN'S SOCCER Wins Inaugural United Soccer Coaches Team Pinnacle Award

Head women's soccer coach Jason Palkovic and his 2018 team were honored with a new award from the United Soccer Coaches Association: the Team Pinnacle Award.

The inaugural distinction was awarded to only 22 collegiate soccer programs across the country, according to the association. To be considered, teams must have received either the Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze version of the College Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award; achieved recognition in the classroom as a recipient of the College Team Academic Award; and recorded a winning percentage of .750 or higher during the respective season.

Palkovic accepted the award on January 16 at the College Coaches Reception in Baltimore, Maryland, at the United Soccer Coaches Convention.

"I am extremely proud of the ladies and honored to have earned this award as it exemplifies everything we are about here at Herkimer," Palkovic said. "We were a successful team, we did it with class by not accumulating cards, and most importantly they got it done in the classroom with a team GPA over a 3.0. They truly were the complete package of what is expected of a student-athlete at Herkimer."

The soccer program has continued this impressive streak, with the 2019 team going 17-2 overall, and taking home the Region III Championship for the third straight year, and finishing fifth in the nation.





BELOVED FORMER HEAD COACH TO BE INDUCTED INTO **NJCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME**

Former Head Coach Jack Alofs has been selected for induction into the NJCAA Men's Basketball Hall of Fame, Class of 2020.

Alofs was a member of the Herkimer College community for 20 years, from 1971 to 1991. He coached the men's basketball team to a 391-155 career record and brought home the first NJCAA DIII Men's Basketball Championship win in 1991. Alofs also coached the 1987 team to a fourth-place finish in the National Junior College Division I basketball tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Alofs, who passed away in 2007, was inducted into the Greater Utica Sports

Hall of Fame in 2000 after twice earning New York State Junior College Coach of the Year honors. He was inducted into the Herkimer College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011.

In 2005, Jack published *Jack Plus 5: Secrets, Strategies, Experiences and Fundamentals in Coaching Winning Basketball*, where he shared his coaching techniques and strategies, as well as many human interest stories about his experiences coaching high school and college basketball.

An outpouring of support came online after the NJCAA Hall of Fame announcement was made, with alumni and friends remembering Alofs for his greatness on and off the court as a coach, mentor, teacher, and friend.

CHAMPIONSHIP NUMBERS

AT THE END OF THE FALL 2019 SEASON:

- NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: 60
- REGION III CHAMPIONSHIPS: 128
- MOUNTAIN VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 169



MEN'S SOCCER

Coach Pepe Aragon Nets 400th Win

The men's soccer team helped **Head Coach Pepe Aragon** net his 400th career win this season, an impressive milestone for the 22-year Generals veteran. The win came in a 7-0 scoring over the Emory Oxford (GA) Eagles and advanced them to the national semifinals.

While the team ended up missing out on the national title in a literal last-second loss to Richland College, it completed the season 20-1.

donors

Thank you to all who generously donated to the Herkimer County College Foundation in 2018-2019.

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thank you

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Current as of January 2020.

& figures facts



FROM **25**
FOREIGN COUNTRIES

ENROLLMENT: FALL 2018 (including College Now)

Total headcount	2,566
Full-time	54%
Part-time	46%

Gender

Male	41%
Female	59%

Age

24 and under	78%
Over 24	22%

Residency

In-state	93%
Out-of-state	3%
International	4%

On-Campus/Online/Concurrent Enrollment

Herkimer	50%
Internet Academy	20%
College Now	27%
P-Tech	1%
Mohawk Correctional Facility	2%

Race/Ethnicity

American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%
Asian	1.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%
Black or African American	10.0%
Hispanic/Latino	5.5%
Non-Resident Alien	4.2%
Two or More Races	1.2%
Unreported	3.5%
White	73.7%

2018-19 Graduates

Degrees	432
Certificates	21

Faculty & Staff (Fall 2018)

Full-Time Faculty/Staff	175
Part-Time Faculty/Staff (excluding College Now)	116

MORE THAN



**TWO-THIRDS OF OUR STUDENTS
TRANSFER TO FOUR-YEAR
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Art

Art Studio A.S.

Business

Accounting A.A.S. *
Accounting A.S. *
Business Administration A.A.S. *
Business Administration A.S. *
Ecotourism and Adventure Travel A.A.S. *
Fashion Buying & Merchandising A.A.S.
Human Resource Management A.A.S. *
Marketing A.A.S. *
Property and Asset Management Certificate *
Quality Assurance - Business A.S. *
Small Business Management A.A.S. *
Small Business Management Certificate *
Sports & Recreation Management A.A.S.
Supply Chain Management A.A.S. *
Travel & Events Management A.A.S. *

Communication Arts

Communication and Media A.S.
Communication Arts: Music Industry A.S.

Criminal Justice & Law

Crime & Intelligence Analysis A.A.S.
Criminal Justice A.A.S. *
Criminal Justice A.S. *
Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics A.S.
Electrical Technology A.A.S.
Forensic Investigations A.A.S.
Legal Studies A.A.S. *
Paralegal Studies Certificate *
Pre-Employment Police Academy

Education

Childhood Education A.S.
Early Childhood A.A.S.
Physical Education A.S.
Recreation Leadership A.S.
Teaching Assistant Certificate *

Healthcare & Service

Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic A.A.S.
Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Certificate
Health Professions A.S.
Health Services Management Technology A.A.S. *
Human Services A.A.S. *
Medical Coding / Transcriptionist Certificate *
Physical Therapist Assistant A.A.S.

Liberal Arts & Sciences

General Studies A.A. *
Humanities A.A. *
Science A.S.
Social Science A.A. *

Science and Technology

Computer and Network Security A.A.S.
Computer Science A.S.
Electrical Technology A.A.S.
Quality Assurance - Science A.S. *
Science A.S.

*Programs also
offered online are
denoted by asterisk.**

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from federal, state and
campus-based sources.

*First-time, full-time students, Fall 2018 (Source: IPEDS)



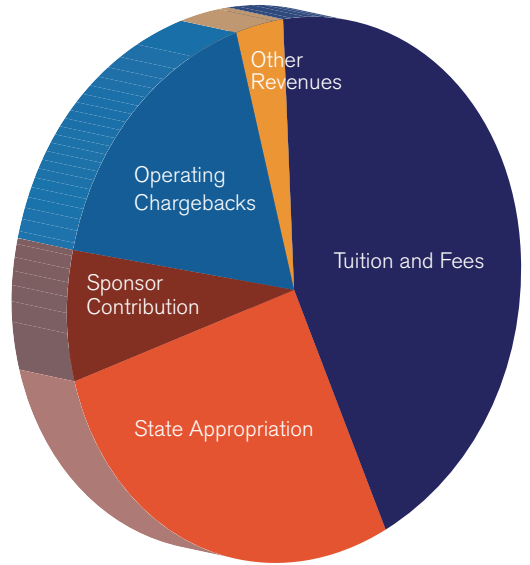
reports financial

The numbers shown are from the unrestricted fund only, for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2019.

Please Note: Data was unofficial at the time of publishing.

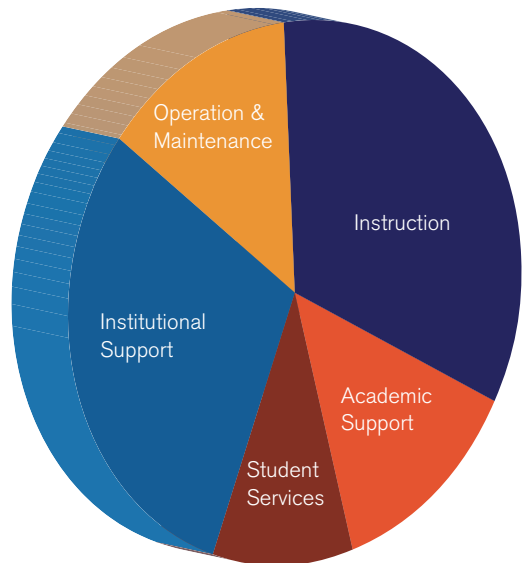
Revenues

Tuition and Fees	\$ 9,143,953
State Appropriation	\$ 6,087,150
Sponsor Contribution	\$ 1,830,612
Operating Chargebacks	\$ 3,437,435
Other Revenues	\$ 875,594
TOTAL	\$ 21,374,744



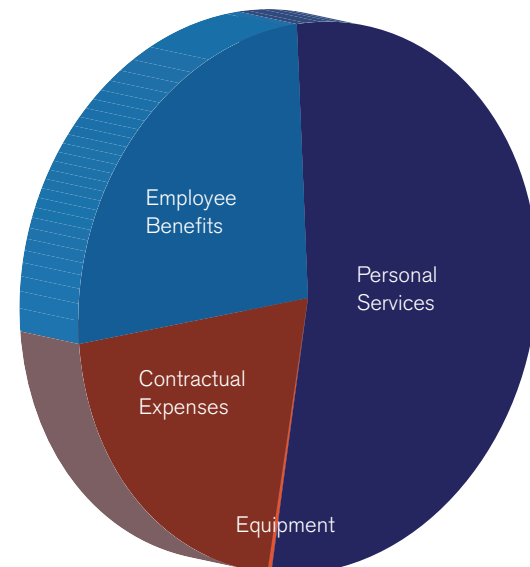
Expenditures by Function

Instruction	\$ 6,589,879
Academic Support	\$ 2,666,903
Student Services	\$ 2,273,913
Institutional Support	\$ 6,633,826
Operation & Maintenance	\$ 2,763,643
TOTAL	\$ 20,928,164



Expenditures by Object

Personal Services	\$ 10,846,181
Equipment	\$ 125,832
Contractual Expenses	\$ 4,515,605
Employee Benefits	\$ 5,440,546
TOTAL	\$ 20,928,164





Herkimer

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www.herkimer.edu

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www.herkimer.edu/social



A HELPING PAW Renegade, Herkimer College's certified therapy dog, is on campus on Wednesdays and Thursdays and has his own open office hour in the Collegiate Recovery Room (CC 223) on Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. The 3-year-old golden retriever has been at the College for about a year, working in the Counseling Center to help students de-stress.

Coming Events | www.herkimer.edu/events

**Robert H. Wood Great Artists Series:
ETHEL with special guest artist, Robert Mirabal**

Friday, April 24, 7 p.m.
Sarkus-Busch Theater
Free and open to the public.

www.herkimer.edu/greatartists

**Region III Men's and Women's
Track and Field Championships**

April 25 & 26
Little Falls High School

Region III Baseball Championships

May 15-17
Veterans Park, Little Falls

Commencement

Friday, May 15, 4 p.m.
www.herkimer.edu/commencement

Generals Open Golf Tournament

Monday, June 8, 10 a.m.
Mohawk Valley County Club
www.herkimer.edu/golf

Fall Fest & Alumni Weekend

Saturday, October 3
www.herkimer.edu/fallfest