

CONNECTIONS

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Herkimer County Community College

Volume 4 | Issue 1

A photograph of two women shaking hands outdoors. The woman on the left has short blonde hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The woman on the right has short brown hair, wears glasses, and a light-colored blazer. They are both smiling. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a fence and trees.

Charting A Course

for the Future

Chancellor Zimpher visits Herkimer.

Fall 2009

Message from Alumni Association President

One of the highlights of our new school year was the visit from our SUNY Chancellor, Dr. Nancy Zimpher. HCCC's Alumni Association was honored to meet Dr. Zimpher at our alumni refreshment kiosk, as we were also greeting parents and new students moving into campus housing. Our Chancellor emphasized that alumni matter, and we are honored to have had the opportunity to share with her one of the many volunteer efforts that our alumni board members are involved in. I encourage each of you to share your passions, pride and progress with HCCC's Alumni Association, and help us show how we make a difference in this world!

The Alumni Association continues to seek new and innovative ideas for future events, and for ways that our current students can share in a return on their investment. Please continue to offer with us your knowledge, desires and visions for the future of HCCC. The following are a few items we are currently working on:

- Celebrating alumni accomplishments through stronger communication.
- Restructuring dues to increase membership.
- Sponsorship of HCCC's Independence Day Celebration.
- Hosting "Welcome Back" days where alumni can return to campus and share their experiences with current students.
- Strengthening our ties within the community through activities with local alumni.
- Updating our website to facilitate communication.
- Inviting other alumni associations from neighboring colleges to a campus conference where we can network and brainstorm best practices and events.
- Surveying the current student population to meet their needs.
- Hosting "discipline/major-based" reunions.
- Encouraging alumni to share their address books in an effort to update our databases and mailing addresses.
- Continuing the marketing of "Alumni Wear."

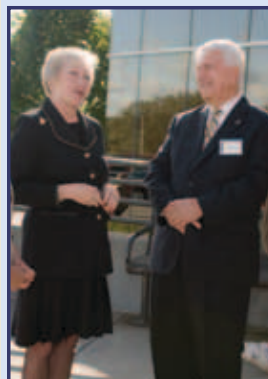
As we near the end of 2009, we continue to chart our course for the future through strategic planning and community relations. You are always part of our community no matter where you might be. Please join us in the continued effort to maintain great memories and future success stories here at Herkimer County Community College.

Cynthia Gabriel '87
President, HCCC Alumni Association

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Greetings from the President



Dr. Ann Marie Murray
President, Herkimer County Community College

Welcome to the fall issue of *Connections*. We hope you enjoy reading about all that is happening on campus, so you can stay connected.

Herkimer County Community College is an amazing place. There are few colleges that can boast of having every president that has served the institution attend an event, and yet that is exactly what happened when SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher visited our campus a few months ago.

Dr. Zimpher was able to hear from former Presidents Robert McLaughlin and Ronald Williams, and myself, about the history of Herkimer County Community College. She learned of our college's growth from day one in 1966 when 74 students began classes at the college's temporary site, Univac Plant #3 in Ilion, to the present day with an enrollment of more than 3,600 students enrolled in 42 different degree and certificate programs on-campus and online. She learned how HCCC found its home on this breathtaking hilltop, and created programs that supported our students' academic goals as well as countless opportunities for lifelong learning for our community. Looking back was inspiring, and we all felt proud of how our predecessors planned the growth and development of this incredible institution.



Reminiscing is great fun, but looking forward is even more exciting. This semester we are looking forward as we create a strategic plan that will outline goals and strategies for the next 10 years and beyond. What can Herkimer County Community College become? What programs will we develop and promote? What will the future be for HCCC? These are precisely the questions that we are asking ourselves and our stakeholders as we work through the strategic planning process and create a road map to drive future decisions.

As alumni and friends of the college, I encourage you to send us your thoughts about HCCC, and what you believe this college can and should become. Your input is valuable and can be emailed to president@herkimer.edu.

As you read about all that is happening within the pages of this publication, consider how far we have come and help us determine how far we will go. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Marie Murray". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

SUNY Chancellor Visits Herkimer Campus

SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher visited HCCC on August 31, the same day nearly 1,000 first-year students arrived for new student orientation. Chancellor Zimpher's visit to the campus was part of her three-month tour of all 64 SUNY campuses. More than 100 college, business and community leaders welcomed the Chancellor at a breakfast held in the Cogar Gallery. Dr. Zimpher discussed her strategic planning efforts for SUNY and answered several questions from guests. Zimpher said "This summer tour allows me to meet with and learn from the many people who share our love for SUNY and our commitment to its future, and who understand the critical role our system plays in New York's economic future." Several meetings with various groups and tours of the campus followed.



Chancellor Zimpher discussed SUNY's strategic planning process and learned about the strengths and opportunities of the College and its surrounding community.



HCCC President Ann Marie Murray, SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, Chairman of the HCCC Board of Trustees Donald Snyder and NYS Assemblyman Marc Butler enjoyed a few moments greeting each other upon the Chancellor's arrival.



College, business and community leaders attended a breakfast with the Chancellor, where Dr. Zimpher explained her plans for developing a system-wide strategic plan and answered questions from the audience.



Chancellor Zimpher and HCCC President Ann Marie Murray met with faculty and academic leaders to discuss opportunities and issues related to academics. Pictured from left: Dr. Mark Polkosnik, Assistant Professor; Bob Moschgat, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; Jacqueline Snyder, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs; Linda Lamb, Associate Dean of Continuing Education; Lorraine Siniscarco, Assistant Professor; Jaclyn Vivlamore, Director of Advisement Center; President Murray; Chancellor Zimpher; Dr. Daniel Murphy, Dean of Academic Affairs; William McDonald, Director of Community Education; Michael Oriolo, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; Ruth Bennett, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs; Marjorie Moore, Director of Academic Support Center; Katherine Schwabach, Counselor/Transfer Services; and Craig Dewan, Registrar.



Dr. Zimpher experienced the residential student move-in process, and visited with members of the Alumni Association who were assisting with move-in day. Pictured from left: Lori Gabriel Knapp '78, Dan Sialteri '85, Dr. Zimpher, Cynthia Gabriel '87, Sharon Howell '79 and Don Dutcher '90.



Chancellor Zimpher visited Wehrum Stadium where the 2009 men's soccer team was practicing. The team presented Dr. Zimpher with a t-shirt and a signed game ball from the 2008 national championships.

Travel and Tourism Program Evolves with Changes in the Industry

Originally developed in 1973 by Professor Jean Stapleton, HCCC's program was one of the first associate degrees offered in travel and tourism, focusing on airline reservationist and travel agency work.

Under the leadership of Stapleton and Professor Helen Pannes, the program enjoyed a strong reputation within the hospitality industry. That reputation continues today thanks to the commitment and responsiveness of the faculty.

As in most industries, the internet has transformed the business of travel providing both opportunities and challenges for those working and teaching in the field. At Herkimer County Community College, where the Travel and Tourism program has long been a flagship program for the college, subtle and some not-so-subtle changes have been made in response to changes in the industry. According to Professor Debra Sutton the program has been broadened to expose students to a wider array of options. "We have been proactive, rather than reactive," says Sutton of the revision of courses to focus on hospitality and events management while continuing to teach some of the traditional travel courses.

In response to changes in the industry created by use of the internet for "do-it-yourselfers" and a post-911 economy, in 2005 the program was revised and renamed Travel and Tourism: Hospitality and Events Management. Some courses were modified and some new courses were added to the curriculum. The program now focuses on two key components of the hospitality industry—travel and event management. Field trips, outside speakers, and internships are strong components of the course work. Courses also cover convention, conference, meeting and event planning, management of hotel sales and front office operations, guest services and customer relations management, and marketing. Students also learn about trip and vacation planning, adventure tourism and world destinations. The program draws a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, and local and out-of-town students, including many international students. "The diversity is important. It allows our students to be more learned in cultural differences, which is important in travel," said Sutton.

The revised program allows the college to continue as a leader in the field of travel and tourism education. Sutton says, "Today, many of our students come to us wanting to be event planners." HCCC maintains articulation agreements with many four-year colleges and universities. Upon graduation, many students continue their education. In 2009, graduates transferred to institutions such as RIT, SUNY Delhi, Niagara University and Alfred State.

Sutton is excited about the future of the program and the industry. "We will be at the forefront of this vast field and provide quality employees to a county rich in vast tourism and hospitality resources," she said.





Faculty Members Published

Thomas Barthel, Associate Professor of English, recently published his fifth book, *Baseball's Peerless Semipro: The Brooklyn Bushwicks of Dexter Park*. Additionally, Barthel's article on General Abner Doubleday ran in the September issue of *Memories and Dreams*.

Jennifer Herzog, Assistant Professor of Biology, recently published two articles, *ASMCUE 2009* and *Journal Watch*, in *Focus on Microbiology Education (FOME)*, the newsmagazine for the American Society for Microbiology's MicrobeLibrary. FOME provides undergraduate microbiology educators with technical, yet practical and feasible advice for improving teaching and learning in the microbiological sciences.

Faculty & Staff Earn Service Awards

Faculty and staff were recognized at a fall semester meeting for their long-time service to the college. Honorees received an award of appreciation based on their number of years of service. Pictured, standing: Dr. Ann Marie Murray, Mary Lou Cavanaugh (30 years), Donald Snyder, Kalman Socolof (30 years), Linda Dewey (30 years), Lorraine Siniscarco (20 years), Robert Neary (20 years), Linda Lamb (20 years) and Ellen Curry (20 years); sitting: Sharon Gregory (40 years) and Thomas Barthel (40 years).

Digital Filmmaking and Gender Studies New Degree Programs Approved

Two new associate degree programs, Digital Filmmaking (A.S.) and Gender Studies (A.A.), will be offered beginning in the spring 2010 semester.

The Digital Filmmaking program is composed of a variety of courses designed to give students a broad background in the skills and techniques needed to be an effective producer of digital content. Students will learn about digital imaging and motion-picture production and explore related career opportunities. The associate in science degree program is designed for transfer to a bachelor's degree program. Careers range from work in traditional motion picture production to digital media production and electronic distribution of images.

The Gender Studies program will provide a strong liberal arts and science background for students. It will prepare students for the changing world by showing how both men's and women's roles have been socially and culturally constructed and how this impacts

our daily interactions. The program will help students develop the skills necessary to compete successfully in a changing economy and will enable students to think critically about how their lives are historically, psychologically, culturally and globally shaped in regard to gender. The associate in arts degree program is designed for transfer to a bachelor's degree program. Graduates of the program may be prepared for careers in a wide range of fields including public relations, media, health, education, sociology and history.

Dr. Daniel J. Murphy, Dean of Academic Affairs, said, "The development of these programs is a proactive approach taken in response to student interest and current employment trends." Both programs have been approved by the State University of New York and the State Education Department.

For more information, contact the college's Admissions Office at 315-866-0300, ext. 8278.

Terri Toennies '81, Travel and Tourism

Dream Job Brings HCCC Alum

With an associate degree in travel and tourism and 28 years working in the field, Terri Toennies' life has come full circle with her recent return to Central New York and a new job that makes use of her various experiences. Toennies is now President and CEO of the Oncenter Complex in Syracuse, NY.



Photo: The Mighty Group

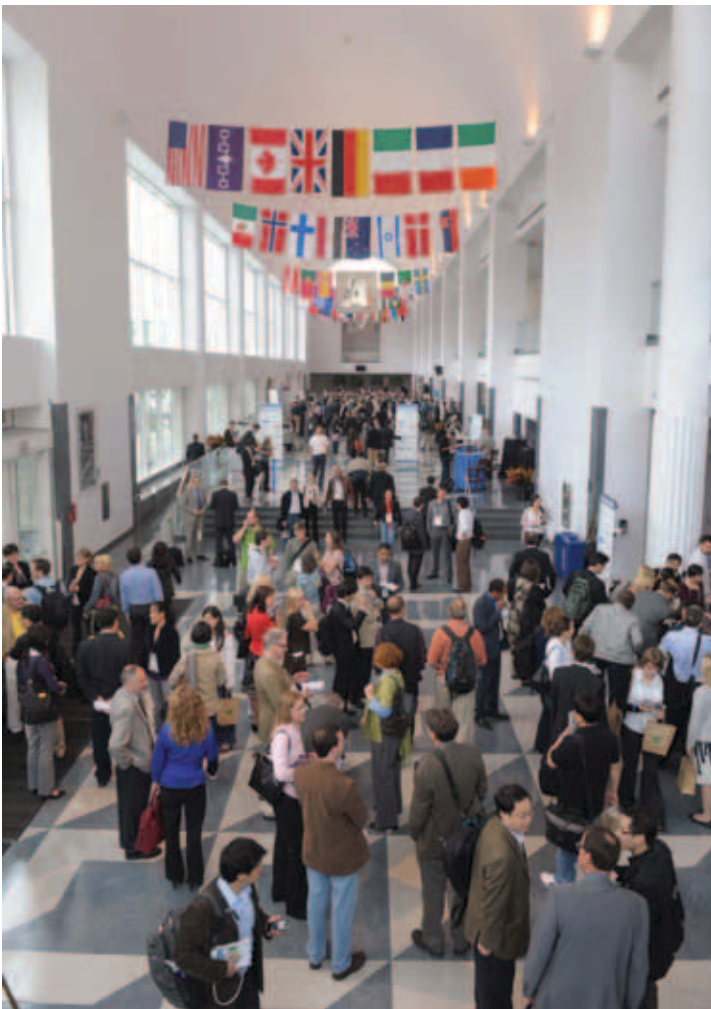


Photo: SU Imaging

“If I had to write the perfect job description, this is what it would be,” Toennies said. The position allows her to incorporate her practical knowledge in the fields of catering, special events and marketing. Toennies began her new role last spring and is responsible for overseeing the management and operations of the Oncenter which includes a 100,000-square-foot convention center for conventions, trade shows, consumer shows, exhibitions and banquets; the War Memorial Arena where large-scale events such as ice shows, concerts and sporting events are held; and a civic center with three theaters that host a variety of events, from operas, symphony performances and stage productions to business meetings. Referring to her two years at HCCC, Toennies said, “I loved every day at college.” She credits the Travel and Tourism program at HCCC for preparing her for the business part of her career. She recalls Travel and Tourism Professor Jean Stapleton’s requirement that students be dressed up for class just as if they were going to work. “It instilled in us that we are in business, and you must make sure you portray a professional image at all times,” she said. Ironically, since returning to the area, Toennies has reconnected with her college roommate, Judi Hess '81, who is similarly employed as Manager of Tourism & Special Events at the Greater Binghamton Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Toennies landed her first job as a result of placement services provided by the college. It was a short stint working at the front desk at a Catskill area resort, but it led to her next job at the Ramada Inn in Syracuse where she worked all hours and performed all sorts of duties.

After gaining additional experience, Toennies was hired to work in catering and convention services for Hyatt Hotels in Princeton, New Jersey. She spent 15 years with the Hyatt in

Back to Central New York



a variety of locations including Buffalo, Boston, California, Houston and New Orleans. She managed catering sales teams, and was also responsible for new business solicitation, marketing and budgeting. Highlights of Toennies' Hyatt career included oversight of the grand opening of the Hyatt Regency La Jolla in California and managing pre- and post-game activities for the 1997 NFL Super Bowl in New Orleans.

In 1998, Toennies joined the House of Blues, New Orleans where she was associate general manager for restaurant, music hall and banquet operations. "It was an odd transition to go from a corporate environment to such a casual atmosphere." Toennies adjusted to the change in culture and moved on to the House of Blues,

Las Vegas. As director of sales and marketing, she worked on a national level to increase special event business for the company. "It was an incredible job, and I loved Las Vegas—the events, the money people had to spend, and the creativity."

Toennies' next career opportunity was to serve as general manager of Sunset Station, a four-city block entertainment venue in the historic area of San Antonio, Texas, with more than 100,000 square feet, 10 event spaces and the capacity to host up to 20,000 guests at a time. The venue had previously relied only on outside catering, and Toennies was charged with bringing the catering in-house. Banquet revenues increased from \$987,000 to \$4.5 million during Toennies' five years at Sunset Station. Toennies oversaw wrap-around

events for the NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four in 2004 and 2008, the annual Alamo Bowl and World Cup Soccer pre- and post-game activities, and the New Orleans Saints pre-game events following Hurricane Katrina. With the downturn in the economy last year, Sunset Station was forced to downsize and Toennies found herself looking for the next

"perfect opportunity," and the Oncenter was it.

Toennies is very enthusiastic about the opportunities her new role presents in terms of promoting the area. "I love to bring people to a community, show it off, and have them leave impressed." She pointed out that the area has much to offer, but that lifelong residents often neglect to showcase what's right in their

own backyards. "I want to give people the wow factor." Since Toennies has been with the Oncenter, some subtle changes have been taking place such as adding sustainable menus, transitioning to contemporary linens and switching out old tv's for flat screens.

Toennies' advice for students and recent graduates interested in the field of hospitality and events management is to seek practical experience. "In this business, it is really important to have hands-on experience, not just book knowledge," says Toennies. "It is also really important to understand that there are long hours, which is not a bad thing if you have a passion for the work. It is also a career where there are always opportunities." Toennies certainly has been proof of that.

"In this business, it is really important to have hands-on experience, not just book knowledge."

Lacrosse Alum Featured in *Inside Lacrosse*



Former Herkimer lacrosse goalie **BRETT QUEENER '05**, now a professional lacrosse player in Major League Lacrosse (MLL), was featured in the August 2009 issue of *Inside Lacrosse*. A passionate and risky goalie known for his athleticism and unique outside-of-the-goal playing style, Queener was photographed for the magazine cover and several photos in the center spread jumping through rings of fire in an Evil Knievel costume. The six-page story (with many photos) is titled, "The kid everyone thought would never grow up has become the

man every kid wants to be." It chronicles Queener's very interesting and colorful road from middle school when he helped his mom coach a varsity girls' team, through his high school and collegiate careers to the MLL.

Queener came to Herkimer from Penn State where he played for one and a half seasons before losing eligibility. He found support and success at Herkimer, both in the classroom and on the field, where he played under coaches Scott Barnard and Paul Wehrum. In 2005, Queener helped

lead the Generals to a 17-2 record and a national championship. He transferred to SUNY Albany the following year where he was encouraged by coach Scott Marr to run the ball and play his own unique style. In 2008, Queener was drafted to the MLL to play for the Rochester Rattlers and was named the first-ever *Inside Lacrosse* Laxie for 2008 Personality of the Year.

The August 2009 issue of Inside Lacrosse can be purchased for \$5 at <https://shop.insidelacrosse.com/shop/product/271>.

MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM ASSISTS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT

Members of the men's lacrosse team recently participated in a Habitat for Humanity project on East North Street in Ilion. The student athletes spent several hours helping to remove a concrete cellar floor, with the use of a jackhammer, in preparation for a new one to be poured. Lacrosse coach Rich Dommer said, "This was a great way to give back to the community while also getting some pre-conditioning for the upcoming season and helping the team to get used to working together."

Athletic Department Supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Athletic Department sponsored several breast cancer awareness activities in October in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The men's soccer team held a Breast Cancer

Awareness Night at which they wore pink jerseys for their game. Coach Pepe Aragon said, "We hope that by lighting the stadium up in pink for this special night, that we helped spread the word to our students and fans about the importance of breast cancer awareness." The women's soccer team also wore pink jerseys and socks for their home games.

Fundraisers held throughout the month included sales of donation cards by several teams (with assistance from the Fashion Club) and participation by the men's and women's cross country team in the Making Strides Walk at the Masonic Care Community. The men's basketball team dedicated their first home game to the fight against breast cancer with a guest speaker, wearing pink ribbons and throwing mini pink basketballs into the crowd. *Pictured is the women's soccer team wearing pink.*



Reconnect, Watch, Catch-up at
HERKIMERGENERALS.COM

HERKIMERGENERALS.COM is the new, all-inclusive, multi-media official athletic website of Herkimer County Community College. Alumni and fans are encouraged to sign up to receive newsletters via email, enjoy live webcasts of many of the Generals' home games (many are archived too), and sign up for text alerts for updates and scores.

Adopt a School Program Launched

Members of the men's and women's soccer teams recently visited middle and elementary students at Poland Central School as part of an "Adopt a School" community outreach effort spearheaded by Director of Athletics Donald Dutcher.

Throughout the visit, Dutcher stressed, "It starts now for you. Do well in school and respect everyone helping you achieve each and every personal goal you have. Every day you get up,

set a new goal to do better than the day before in school, at home, on the soccer field and for yourself."

A second visit to Poland Central School is planned for the spring, in which Herkimer student-athletes will read to elementary school students in their classrooms, demonstrate life fitness activities and offer tips on improving soccer skills and good sportsmanship.



"This is a great opportunity for our student athletes to give back to the community. If we influenced one student to improve their academic achievement and respect for school and athletics, our visit was well worth it."

Women's Swim Team Named National Academic Team of the Year

The 2008-09 women's swim team earned the distinction of being named National Academic Team of the Year. Coached by Vicki Brown, the team had an average GPA of 3.52. Three other HCCC teams were also recognized for their academic achievements. The men's tennis team, coached by Tom Basel, had an average GPA of 3.05; the women's tennis team, coached by Katie Scanlon, had an average GPA of 3.11; and the women's track and field team, coached by Sharon Howell, had an average GPA of 3.18.

Men's Soccer Team Honors Professor Friedrich

Professor Dick Friedrich was recently honored by the men's soccer team for his continued support of the soccer program. Just before the start of the September 24 game versus Finger Lakes, Friedrich was presented with a personalized t-shirt. He was also given the honor of kicking off the game to senior goalkeeper James Taber. The Generals once again made Friedrich proud with a shutout win of 3-0.



BASKETBALL SEASON HAS ARRIVED!

The Herkimer Generals men's and women's basketball teams have opened their 2009-2010 seasons. Visit www.herkimergenerals.com for schedules, rosters, game scores, webcasts and the latest news.



Former Herkimer Basketball Player Signs with Halifax Rainmen



Former Herkimer County Community College basketball player **LONNELL JONES** recently signed with the Halifax Rainmen. A 6'2 shooting guard from Brooklyn, New York, Jones played for Herkimer from 2004 to 2006 and averaged 16 points, 6 assists and 4 rebounds per game. He was named All-American, All Region 1st Team and All Conference 1st Team. Jones then played for Clarion University from 2006 to 2008, averaging 10 points and 4 assists per game.

Halifax Rainmen owner, Andre Levingston said, "I am extremely excited to have Jones. He's tough as nails and loves picking up 94 feet. He is a young player, who will come in the game and give us a solid contribution." Rainmen head coach Les Berry added, "When I first saw Lonnell, I was extremely impressed by his competitiveness and ability to do a number of different things on court. He will impact the game in a number of different areas and has the ability to guard three different positions, which I really like."

HCCC men's basketball coach Matt Lee said, "We are very proud of Lonnell's accomplishments both academically and athletically. Lonnell helped launch our program's national and regional success, and he has set the bar for other players to follow."

The Halifax Rainmen are a professional basketball team based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The Rainmen are part of the Atlantic Division of the Premier Basketball League (PBL).



New Website Launched

Check out the new college website at www.herkimer.edu. The new site has a fresh look, reorganized navigation structure and built-in searches making it easier to find information. The homepage is designed with more flexibility to promote events, activities and academic programs. Many new features have been added including Meet the Faculty and Frequently Asked Question sections. Additional changes are forthcoming including enhanced program pages and an online alumni community.

Flame Performs

Hundreds gathered in the Sarkus-Busch Theater on Tuesday, October 6 for a performance by the band Flame. Students and community members in attendance were from HCCC, Dolgeville Central School, Frankfort-Schuyler Central School, Herkimer Central School, Springbrook, Herkimer ARC, Oneida-Lewis ARC, Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center, Human Technologies Corporation, and United Cerebral Palsy. Flame entertained the audience with a variety of music including popular classic rock, blues, pop and country songs. The band is composed of 11 individuals with developmental or physical disabilities, including autism, Down syndrome and blindness.

Co-sponsored by HCCC's Campus Accessibility Committee and the Herkimer Area Resource Center, the concert was one of the events held during the 17th annual Accessibility Awareness Week at HCCC. The purpose of Accessibility Awareness Week is to educate the community on

the abilities of individuals and the need to make environments accessible and inclusive. In addition to the performance by Flame, the week included simulation activities to help participants appreciate the challenges a person with a disability faces.



17th Annual Generals Open Golf Tournament



The Herkimer County College Foundation held its 17th Annual Generals Open Golf Tournament at the Cedar Lake Club on Monday, June 16. More than 100 golfers participated helping to raise funds to support the Foundation's local scholarship fund. To date, the Generals Open tournament has raised more than \$130,000 to help hundreds of local students achieve the dream of earning a college degree.

Pictured is the winning team from Hopson, Luther & Harper Insurance: Doug Wein, Gary Luther, Rick Salamone and Rob Pawluk. The second place team was from Whiter-Hendrix Funeral Home: Lenny Hendrix, Sandi Hendrix, Bea Malone and Dave Malone.

Raffle Winner Chooses Bike

REBECCA WARD of Herkimer won the Herkimer County College Foundation's Harley raffle earlier this year. Ward chose the black and chrome Harley Davidson Road King Classic rather than the optional \$12,500 cash. The winning ticket was drawn at the Community Independence Day Celebration held on campus on July 2. The Harley raffle is one of the many ways the Foundation raises funds for student scholarships and ongoing professional development and independent research at HCCC.



College Community Remembers 9/11



A ceremony was held on the campus on Friday, September 11 to remember and honor all those affected by the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The program began with presentation of the colors by the VFW Post 4915 and Vietnam Veterans of America Color Guard and the National Anthem sung by HCCC student Joelle Holk of Mohawk. Speakers included HCCC student Christine Brockway of Iliion, HCCC Professor Timothy McLean, and Mimi

Martin, of Mohawk, whose husband Marine Sgt. Shawn Martin was killed in action on June 20, 2007, while serving in Iraq. Martin said "Today is a day to remember how September 11, 2001 changed each of our lives." She asked that everyone remember those who were killed, as well as their families and friends who "are forever feeling the effects of their deaths." Daniel Murphy, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Ryan Damon, HCCC student from

St. Johnsville, performed Amazing Grace on the bagpipes, and James Traglia, a music teacher at Herkimer Central School, played Taps. In her closing remarks, President Ann Marie Murray said, "Our presence here today is our statement. We are grateful and we will remember." Pictured is HCCC student Joelle Holk, of Mohawk, singing the National Anthem.



Stradivari Quartet Performance Enjoyed by Many

The fall concert of the Robert H. Wood Great Artists Series featured the Stradivari Quartet. Students and community members enjoyed the performance in the Sarkus-Busch Theater on Friday, October 23. The Robert H. Wood Great Artists Series was made possible by a planned gift from the late Robert H. Wood, a long-time Iliion resident, who wanted to promote an enjoyment of and appreciation for classical music in the Mohawk Valley. Herkimer County College Foundation President Robert Brenchley said "Our community has had the opportunity to enjoy several world-renown musical performances, and will continue to do so for years to come, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Wood." The Foundation accepts donations on behalf of Herkimer County Community College to support scholarships and other programs.

Community Independence Day Celebration



The Community Independence Day Celebration was held on the campus on Thursday, July 2. The annual event drew many community members for the Brooks Chicken Barbecue and other concessions, live musical entertainment by Showtime and a spectacular fireworks display. The event was sponsored by the Herkimer County Community College Alumni Association, Polish Community Home Inc. of Herkimer, Herkimer Area Resource

Center, WKTU, WXUR/WNRS and the Herkimer Evening Telegram, and also supported by many local businesses, organizations and agencies. *Pictured are alumni Daniel Stalteri '85 and Denise Frederick '04 handing out helium balloons provided by the HCCC Alumni Association.*

Please join us on
Friday,
March 26 at
8:00 pm
for the Marian Anderson
String Quartet,
the next concert in
the Robert H. Wood
Great Artists Series.

HCCC and the Community Celebrate Fall Fest 2009

The college hosted its annual Fall Fest event on Saturday, October 3. Students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community enjoyed an array of activities including a motorcycle, antique tractor and car show, hayrides, caricatures, inflatable games, kite flying, a solar star gazing activity and a farmer's market. Highlights of the event were the alumni art exhibit and opening reception in the Cogar Gallery and alumni baseball and men's lacrosse games.



Alumni Artists Display Their Work at HCCC

Several Herkimer County Community College alumni recently displayed selections of their artwork in the Alumni Art Exhibit in the Cogar Gallery.

The artists featured were Paul Finch, Karl Ermisch, Mary Jo Carrig, Robert Willman, Kate Kulig and Domonic Greco.

HCCC's Cogar Gallery is located in the Robert McLaughlin College Center and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. when the College is open.



Alumni artist Domonic Greco and his family view his pottery at the show's opening reception, held in conjunction with HCCC's annual Fall Fest on Saturday, October 3.

PAUL FINCH, a 1980 graduate of HCCC, is currently working as a photojournalist. Finch has been published in numerous magazines and newspapers throughout the world. He has won awards in many categories from various organizations, including the New York Press Association and the Syracuse Press Association. He has been fortunate to combine his love of his photojournalism career with that of being a humanitarian photographer working for the Catholic SUN. The artwork displayed at the exhibit was a selection of images taken during trips to Guyana and Haiti organized by Food for the Poor, an ecumenical humanitarian aid organization based in Florida.

KARL ERMISCH, a 1980 graduate, has owned and operated his photography business for many years. Ermisch is a fine arts photographer and is actively involved in the community. He shoots commercial work, weddings, high school seniors, families, corporate events and scenic decor. He displayed a variety of photographic work at the exhibit.

MARY JO CARRIG, a 1982 graduate, is a fine artist, and has a studio at Canal Place in Little Falls. She exhibited tradition art, furniture and floor pieces that she designed for her business.

ROBERT WILLMAN graduated from HCCC in 1989. He is one of the most sought after watercolorists in central New York and he conducts workshops throughout the region. Well-known for capturing the seasonal changes of the Mohawk Valley and the Adirondacks, Willman's paintings have received numerous awards in juried exhibitions and are in many permanent collections including museums, corporations, universities and private collections throughout the United States.

KATE KULIG, a 1990 graduate, began world traveling in 1993 and since then has been developing connectivity projects with countries of the world. Kulig has been able to combine her passion for travel and painting. She primarily works in watercolors and pastels as they lend themselves best to traveling. Kulig has been spending summers working with international artists to develop her painting, coming home with renewed artistic energy and new ideas for student projects. She is an art and architecture educator at Canajoharie High School. She exhibited paintings from her recent trip to France.

DOMONIC GRECO is a 2004 graduate and has been exhibiting his work throughout the central New York region. Greco works primarily with stoneware and uses earth tone glazes to maintain a natural and organic feel to his art. He displayed his pottery at the exhibit.

CLASS OF 1973

Barbara Rennert Roszko, Reston, VA is a private school teacher and would love to hear from “old friends” from Herkimer.

CLASS OF 1978

Theresa Prestopnik Ricci, Herkimer, NY continued her education and is now a teacher in the Little Falls City School District and an owner of Educators Plus. She has three children.

Randall Moore, Fredonia, NY is a Police Lieutenant at SUNY Fredonia. He married Janet Buehler in 1982, together they have three children.

CLASS OF 1979

Tammy Lucas Roorda, Herkimer, NY continued her education earning both bachelor’s and master’s degrees. She is an elementary art teacher in the Little Falls City School District and an owner of Educators Plus. She has three children.

CLASS OF 1981

John O’Brien, Queensbury, NY has been a code enforcement officer with the Town of Queensbury for the past 16 years. He and his wife Karen have two daughters. John also has two stepsons. Driving past Herkimer recently brought back fond memories of his school days on the hill, nights at the Palmer House, The Rustic Inn, Boyle’s Pitt and his two homes away from home, The Dorm and The Herkimer Motel. He reflects “It is amazing how twenty eight years fly by. Good times and great learning, that is what it was all about.”

CLASS OF 1989

Brian R. Haak, Albany, NY was recently appointed to the New York State Bar Association’s Special Committee on LGBT People and the Law by the new Association President Michael E. Getnick.

CLASS OF 1990

Betsy Boyd Leslie, Tampa, FL has been married for 17 years to John Leslie and has four children ranging in age from 5-12. Betsy home schools all of her children and loves being a stay-at-home wife and mother. She is very involved in her church and community.

CLASS OF 1998

Wendy Russell Norman, Moiro, NY earned a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Science in 2001 and a Master of Physical Therapy degree in 2004, both from Clarkson University. She is currently employed with Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES as a licensed physical therapist providing physical therapy services to children throughout northern New York.

CLASS OF 2004

Erin E. White, Orlando, FL is a third year kindergarten teacher at Lake George Elementary School in Orlando, Florida.

CLASS OF 2007

Sydney Astafan, Brockport, NY is currently finishing a bachelor’s degree program in psychology at SUNY Brockport.

In Memoriam

The Herkimer County Community College Alumni Association extends its sincere sympathy to the families of the following deceased alumni and members of the HCCC family:

Paul Leo Beisig, Sr., 83, Silver Springs, FL, Class of 1979, passed away September 15, 2009 after a short illness. He proudly served his country with the Merchant Marines and was a World War II Veteran. He spent most of his life in the Utica/Rome, NY area until his retirement to Florida.

Robert Fericola, 51, Utica, NY, Class of 1979, passed away July 22, 2009 after a battle with an illness. With strength of character and firmness in his beliefs, his personal faith was made stronger during his difficult days.

Russell Stanley Kuzniak, 61, Ilion, NY, Class of 1996, passed away October 2, 2009 following a brief illness. He proudly served our country with the United States Army as a Recon scout. He was most recently employed with Ricmar Printing in Amsterdam.

Kim Lorraine Pesto Eddy, 53, Newark, OH, Class of 1976, passed away June 5, 2009 unexpectedly at her home. She was a retired teacher.

Shawn Patrick Reardon, 54, Little Falls, NY, Class of 1980, passed away August 3, 2009 at his home. He was employed by Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. as a materials manager before retiring in 1998.

Joseph F. Cassella, 40, Waterford, VA, Class of 1988, passed away on July 11, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a personal trainer and creator of Elite Fitness Concepts, a health and fitness club in Great Falls, VA.

ALUMNI UPDATE

RETURN FORM TO: Alumni Association, HCCF, 100 Reservoir Road, Herkimer, NY 13350 or vince.casale@herkimer.edu

NAME: _____ CLASS OF: _____
LAST FIRST MAIDEN

ADDRESS _____

COUNTY _____

PHONE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

EMAIL _____

UPDATE INFORMATION _____



ALUMNI DUES

I would like to join the Alumni Association. My \$25 check (payable to HCCC Alumni Association) is enclosed for a one-year membership; \$250 for a lifetime membership.

2010 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS WELCOME

The Herkimer County Community College Alumni Association invites alumni to submit nominations for the 2010 Alumnus of the Year Award. The award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professional, civic or personal accomplishments that best reflect the commitment to excellence and community service which define the community college.

All nominations will be reviewed by representatives of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and awards will be presented at the College's commencement ceremony on Friday, May 21, 2010 at HCCC.

Nominations are due by February 26, 2010

For additional information, call the HCCC Alumni Office at (315) 866-0300, ext. 8459.

2010 Alumnus of the Year Award Nomination Form

Each year the Herkimer County Community College Alumni Association recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in their careers and/or in service to their communities.

NOMINEE: _____ MAIDEN NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: Home _____ Work _____ E-mail _____

EDUCATION: Degree Received, Date Received, Major:

High School: _____

Herkimer County Community College: _____

OTHER INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED:

College: _____

College: _____

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION:

Current Employment: _____

Previous Employment: _____

Professional Memberships/Affiliations: _____

Publications, Special Honors, Recognition, Research: _____

Community Involvement: _____

You may attach additional pages, clippings, etc. which you feel are pertinent for nomination consideration. Submit your completed nomination form by **February 26, 2010** to: HCCC Alumni Office, Attention: Teresa Shepard, Foundation/Alumni Administrative Assistant, 100 Reservoir Rd., Herkimer, NY 13350.

Name of Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

The Second Annual
President's
Gala

Saturday, April 10, 2010

We had so much fun last year, we've decided to do it again. Join us for the **2nd Annual President's Gala at HCCC**. To be added to the mailing list or for more information, email vince.casale@herkimer.edu



**Calling
All
Carolers!**

The "Alum Notes" are looking for voices of all ages to join them for some local holiday caroling. If interested, please contact Teresa Shepard at shepardta@herkimer.edu or 315.866.0300 ext. 8459.

ROBERT H. WOOD

Great Artists
SERIES

presents:

**THE MARIAN ANDERSON
STRING QUARTET**

Please join us on

Friday, March 26, 2010 at 8:00 pm

for the next concert in the Robert H. Wood Great Artists Series.

www.mcmarts.com/marian_anderson.html

Give Back or Pay It Forward

(Which ever way you choose to look at it, giving to Herkimer is a sound investment for the future.)

The value of a gift to Herkimer is immeasurable. For many students, Herkimer County Community College presents the only affordable option to begin their college careers. Last year, over \$130,000 was awarded in scholarships to HCCC students. Your gift will provide the means to award more scholarships addressing the College's mission of offering access to quality, affordable lifelong learning opportunities.

When making the important decision of how and when to make your gift, there are many choices available to you for structuring a donation in a manner that will allow for the maximum impact both for your benefit and for the College. Gifts can be made to address important issues that are a priority to the College today or can be arranged to have a lasting impact in years to come.

Give **Today** through:

- Cash Gifts
- Gifts of Property
- Gifts of Personal Property

or

Give **Tomorrow** through:

- Your Will
- Gifts of Insurance
- Deferred Gifts

For more information regarding planned giving, please contact the Foundation Office at 315-866-0300 ext. 8459.

Our students thank you.



Alumni Association
Herkimer County College Foundation
100 Reservoir Road
Herkimer, NY 13350

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Upcoming HCCC Events

Robert H. Wood

Great Artists Series Concert

The Marian Anderson String Quartet
Friday, March 26, 2010 at 8 p.m.
Sarkus-Busch Theater

College Open House

Saturday, March 27, 2010
Robert McLaughlin College Center

2nd Annual President's Gala

Saturday, April 10, 2010
On the HCCC campus

Radio-Television Broadcasting

Alumni Reunion
April 16-18, 2010
On the HCCC campus

Men's and Women's Lacrosse Regionals

May 1-2, 2010
Wehrum Stadium

Baseball Regionals

May 7-9, 2010
Veterans Memorial Park, Little Falls, NY

Men's and Women's Lacrosse Nationals

May 8-9, 2010
Wehrum Stadium

42nd Annual Commencement

Friday, May 21, 2010 at 5 p.m.
Gymnasium, Physical Education Building