

# CONNECTIONS

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Herkimer County Community College

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FALL 2006

## Reflecting on Forty Years of Excellence



Shortly after the College's year-long celebration began this summer to commemorate 40 years of excellence in education, I reached a personal milestone—my 20th anniversary as the College's second president. These milestones present great opportunities to pause and reflect. I would like to share these reflections with you in this inaugural issue of *Connections*. In the pages that follow, you will read history that details the College's beginnings—its people and its progress over the past 40 years. I hope you enjoy the viewpoints we received from alumni and friends, some of whom are currently or have been members of our faculty and staff. It is the personal touch of these individuals, along with so many others, who have made a permanent mark on the College.

In 20 years, I have witnessed a student body that has grown from slightly more than 1,100 students in 1986 to over 3,400 learners today. Students now have the opportunity to study on campus, online through the Internet Academy and as high school students through College Now. With so many innovative ways to earn a degree, we are proud to welcome a diverse student population that spans many geographies, time zones, languages, ethnicities, age groups and life experiences. Technology has transformed the way we do business and the way students learn. Twenty years ago, the only computers on campus were the result of generous donations to the College. Today, computer labs, classrooms and offices on campus are outfitted with the latest technology. Some of our academic programs, like Radio-TV Broadcasting, utilize equipment that is more sophisticated than some professionals have access to in their workplace.

The common thread I've witnessed in 20 years and one I know has existed for 40 years, thanks to the stewardship of the College's first president, Robert McLaughlin, is the focus on students. Both academic and operational decisions continue to be made only after answering one question: does this impact student learning and the college experience positively?

It is my hope that all of you reading this new magazine, especially our alumni, know how important you are to the College. We hope you will think about the ways you can continue to be involved in our growth. Whether it is through your support of our fundraising efforts, mentoring current students with career advice or supporting internship opportunities in the places you work, we need you! In looking ahead to the next decade, I know HCCC has a bright future.

Ronald F. Williams, Ed.D.  
President

## CONNECTIONS

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends  
of Herkimer County Community College

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# Look Who's Turning 40!

On July 3, 2006, more than 5,000 Herkimer County residents, and families and friends from neighboring communities, joined together at Herkimer County Community College for the annual Community Independence Day Celebration—the largest attendance to date in the history of this 14-year event. The community also joined in celebrating another special event—the College's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! >>>

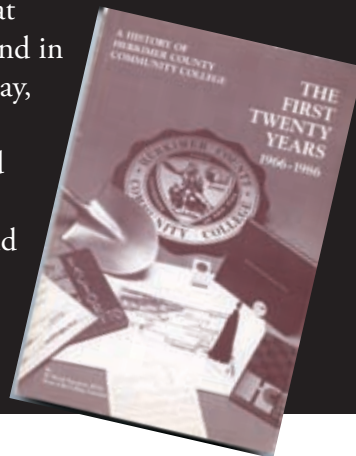


## Celebrating Excellence in Education

**It was in the early 1960s that the State University of New York (SUNY) Master Plan identified Herkimer County as a potential community college site, a location and a community that showed great promise to support such an important endeavor. It was the commitment and vision of a small upstate New York community that began a unique and very special story.**

On January 13, 1966, the SUNY Trustees selected the County of Herkimer to sponsor and establish a community college. On June 29, less than fifteen months before classes began, the HCCC Board of Trustees held its first meeting. These details, and many others related to the College's early history can be studied in the book, *A History of Herkimer County Community College: The First Twenty Years 1966-1986*, by H. David Trautlein, Ph.D., Dean of the College, Emeritus.

Highlighted in this issue are events and activities key to the College's 40-year history. Space was limited in this edition to share all of the interesting and informative details of the College's history, but we invite you to read more at [www.herkimer.edu](http://www.herkimer.edu). In celebration of the 40-year anniversary, and in honor of the many people who made the College what it is today, magazine staff solicited feedback from current faculty and staff, as well as emeritus faculty members, to learn what they enjoyed most about HCCC, what were some of the significant changes noticed over the past four decades of the College's existence, and their fondest memories of an association with HCCC.



**“The years I spent as a student at Herkimer were some of the most important years of my life.** The quality of the education I received created a foundation that has carried me through the completion of my graduate degree and through a fascinating career in higher education that I could never have imagined before attending HCCC.”

**John D. Bullis '73**  
Dean of Institutional Advancement

*“As a student, I realized HCCC was an organization I hoped I could work for one day. As a professional who has been here 14 years, I feel like I have a second family here. Like many high school students, I first went away to college. After one year, I knew I didn't like it. Coming back home and going to HCCC was the best decision I ever made.”*

**Amy Dewan '90**  
Assistant Director of Human Resources

“First and selfishly, working with young adults helped to keep me young—at least mentally. It helped me keep an open mind on issues where generations may have differences. Next I'd have to say it was gratifying to see the maturation that took place before my eyes, especially between the first and third semesters. I am referring to the growth of the individual in several ways—leadership, communication skills and academics. When I see the TIAA-CREF television commercial and the quote regarding human centered jobs (“for the greater good”) I am so proud to have been employed at HCCC.”

**David H. Champoux**  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Emeritus

“Teaching students at HCCC was an interesting and challenging endeavor as a result of the close bonding which existed between students and faculty.

**Students often came to my office to share their problems, seek extra help with assignments, or just to talk.**

“Caribbean and western Mexican cruises offered to students, supervision of Walt Disney World (Florida) internships and teaching French culture to students while traveling with them via motorcoach through France provided additional opportunities for student/faculty bonding. In my travels I frequently encounter former Travel & Tourism students who now hold excellent positions in the travel industry. How proud I am of them!

“Recently a former HCCC student commented how valuable the information acquired in domestic and international travel classes has been for his personal travel throughout the world.”

**Jean E. Stapleton,**  
Professor, Emeritus  
Travel & Tourism

“I loved my experience at Herkimer so much that when I graduated with my bachelor's degree, I called HCCC for a teaching position. Dr. Joe DeLorenzo told me to call back when I had my master's. I diligently worked toward that for three years. I taught as an adjunct from 1993 until my full-time position opened in 1998. **I left public school teaching after nine years for the college experience. I wanted to give back all that HCCC had given me. I absolutely love teaching at HCCC, and hope my enthusiasm and love for my alma mater come through to my students.**

“I am eternally grateful to Dr. Faye Eichholzer and Dr. Joe DeLorenzo, as they were inspiring and truly were lifelines while I attended HCCC. I couldn't wait to walk into their classes to see what we would learn next! I am honored to have been taught by Dr. Bob Pring, R.J. Lenarcic, Bill Pelz, Dr. Anne Greco and Dr. Diane Daugherty. They instilled in me a true love for academics, life-long learning and giving, professionalism and civic duty while I was at HCCC. I model my teaching after all that I learned from their excellent examples of what teaching truly is. They define ‘passion’ as well as ‘compassion.’”

**Cynthia Gabriel '87**  
Assistant Professor, English  
President, HCCC Alumni Association

“My favorite professor was Mr. Irving Mason. I still remember the three rules of accounting to this day! I also recall the exam we had on accounts payable/receivable and how he took it personally when most of us bombed it. We spent extra time covering this material and a lot of us spent his office hours trying to grasp the concepts of that chapter.

“My two years as a student helped me to mature and learn how to deal with different people and situations. I met many people who I am still friends with 30 years later. The time I spent here as a student is what led me to take a job at HCCC in 1977. I liked the way I was treated as a student and wanted to continue that tradition as an employee.”

**Mary Lou Cavanaugh '77**  
Office Assistant I

**“Because HCCC was a small college for many years, I had the opportunity to engage in many significant endeavors on campus. I was the first NJCAA men's basketball coach (1969-71), Social Issues Club founder and advisor, president of the HCCC Athletic Booster Club, Chairperson of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, Scholarship Committee, Professors Council and served on many search committees. I was privileged to have mentored many students in my Social Issues Club that ran over 160 programs both on and off campus.”**

**Gary W. Ruff,**  
Professor, Emeritus  
Sociology

**“If you look at the number of HCCC staff/faculty, many are alumni of HCCC. That says a lot about what they think of HCCC, and the impact the College had on them as a student.”**

**Donald Dutcher '90**  
Director of Athletics and Physical Education

# Celebrating the Class of 2006

At the College's 38th annual commencement, over 1,300 individuals gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2006 and welcome them as our newest alumni.



Before the 2006 Alumnus of the Year presentation was made to the family of Joseph D. Corr ('95 Criminal Justice A.S.) posthumously, family members met with graduate A.J. Servello, the recipient of a scholarship they established in Joe's honor. Pictured are: Joe's parents, David and Kathy Corr (far left, far right); Joe's wife, Tracie (second from right) and their daughter, Katie (with her grandfather), and; A.J. Servello, Criminal Justice: Forensic Investigations, A.A.S.



Jennifer Boulanger, Dean of Academic Affairs (center), works closely with Associate Professor, Social Science, Mary Jo Kelley (left) to confirm pronunciations and degrees to be conferred upon members of the Class of 2006. Pictured with them is James Luckner of St. Johnsville who received a 2006 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. This honor is given annually to students who earn GPAs of 3.78 or higher and who volunteer significantly with their campus or local community.

On Friday, May 19, 2006, President Ronald F. Williams, Dean of Academic Affairs Jennifer Boulanger and Dean of Students Matthew Hawes conferred 576 degrees and 16 certificates upon the Class of 2006. For the first time, the ceremony was available online via streaming video.

The evening featured a jazz trio performance with musicians including Christopher Earley, music instructor at HCCC, as well as the traditional participation by the Mohawk Valley Frasers. The program also included a musical selection sung by the Mohawk Valley Chorale Society, under the direction of Randy Davis, with participation by the College's controller Jackie Woudenberg as well as members of the Class of 2006. Graduating students Kayliegh Brady and Ashley Rice were featured vocal soloists during the program, presided by Donald J. Snyder '04, Chairperson of the College's Board of Trustees. Greetings were delivered by James L. Seward, NYS Senator, 51<sup>st</sup> District; Marc W. Butler, NYS Assemblyman, 117<sup>th</sup> District and Leonard Hendrix, Chairman, Herkimer County Legislature.

The student address, 'Farewell to Herkimer' was given by Ousman Nguye Lamin Njie (Liberal Arts and Sciences: General Studies, '06). His message to fellow classmates reminded them that they must continue their learning through a lifetime and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to call HCCC 'home' for the past several years. Student Government President and member of the Class of 2006 Andrew Bronson spoke on behalf of the graduates, leaving them with words from a professor he had at HCCC who said, 'In life, it's not about the destination—but the journey that matters.'

President Ronald F. Williams presented three SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence to HCCC faculty and staff, including: Dr. Timothy McLean, Professor, Social Science (Excellence in Teaching); William Pelz, Professor, Social Science (Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities), and; Thomas Stock, Director of Facilities Operations (Excellence in Professional Service).

2006 became a milestone for Herkimer County Community College when, for the first time, the graduation ceremony was available online via streaming video.

The Herkimer County Community College Alumni Association selected Officer Joseph D. Corr '95 as the 2006 Alumnus of the Year posthumously, after his death in the line of duty earlier this year. Officer Corr was chosen for this honor because of his professionalism, heroism and commitment to his profession and community. At HCCC, Corr was a criminal justice major. Highlights of Corr's career at HCCC included: being named the Most Valuable Player on the baseball team in 1995; tying the record for the second-highest number of home runs in a season in 1995, and possessing the sixth-highest career batting average in HCCC history. Lynton Clark, Instructor, Forensic Investigations, described Corr during a video tribute with the following reflection: "I just cannot think of anything else to better describe the character of a person than their commitment to not just a family at home, but a community. Joe's philosophy was giving." During the tribute, Henry Testa, Assistant Professor of Business and former HCCC baseball coach, encouraged graduates to go out and do the best job they could. The award was accepted by Officer Corr's family. The Alumnus of the Year recognition has been made annually for the past 20 years to honor an alumnus who exemplifies the community college philosophy that combines personal integrity and service to the community. If you would like to nominate an individual to be considered for the 2007 Alumnus of the Year Award, please contact Vince Casale at [casaleva@herkimer.edu](mailto:casaleva@herkimer.edu).



HCCC President Ronald F. Williams places the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Professional Excellence on Thomas Stock, Director of Facilities Operations. Dr. Timothy McLean, Professor, Social Science, and William Pelz, Professor, Social Science, were honored with SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, respectively.

## FOUNDATION ANNUAL RAFFLE

Proceeds to benefit the works of the Herkimer County College Foundation, Inc., including student scholarships



**Grand Prize**  
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Laurie DeVaul-LaVine  
Class of '85, A.A.S., Criminal Justice

# Giving Back to Her Community

## CJ Grad Captains Ilion Police Department

**Laurie DeVaul-LaVine ('85, A.A.S., Criminal Justice), Captain of the Ilion (NY) Police Department, is proud to give back to the community she grew up in.** DeVaul-LaVine has been on the Ilion police force for nearly 20 years, starting out as a police officer in 1987. One of 17 police officers on the Ilion Police Department force, DeVaul-LaVine is the only female officer.

DeVaul-LaVine has been on the Ilion police force for nearly 20 years, starting out as a police officer in 1987. One of 17 police officers on the Ilion Police Department force, DeVaul-LaVine is the only female officer.

"I knew what I wanted to do, and I had a great foundation from studying at Herkimer County Community College," she said. As soon as she turned 20 and became of age to take the civil service test for a police officer, she did, then had to wait until age 21 to accept a position.

"In the early days I worked rotating shifts on the squad under the supervision of a sergeant," DeVaul-LaVine said. She handled calls/complaints, traffic enforcement, entry-level work and residential foot patrol in the village of Ilion. DeVaul-LaVine also taught DARE, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, at Remington Elementary for seven years. Promoted to sergeant in 1999, she then supervised four officers and a dispatcher. DeVaul-LaVine continued to move up the ranks, with a promotion to captain in 2005.

"As captain, I supervise all road patrols and review all investigations, and am responsible for reviewing case and arrest paperwork," she said. "I serve as the liaison between the patrol squads and the Chief of Police." She also serves as a police instructor, teaching at the Police Academy on various topics including basic crash management/accident investigation. DeVaul-LaVine said her main involvement is dealing with sexual violence crimes against adults and children. "These cases are being reported more now. The kids get more information in school, and they come forward. Children need to be safe and know they should tell if someone tries to hurt them," she said.

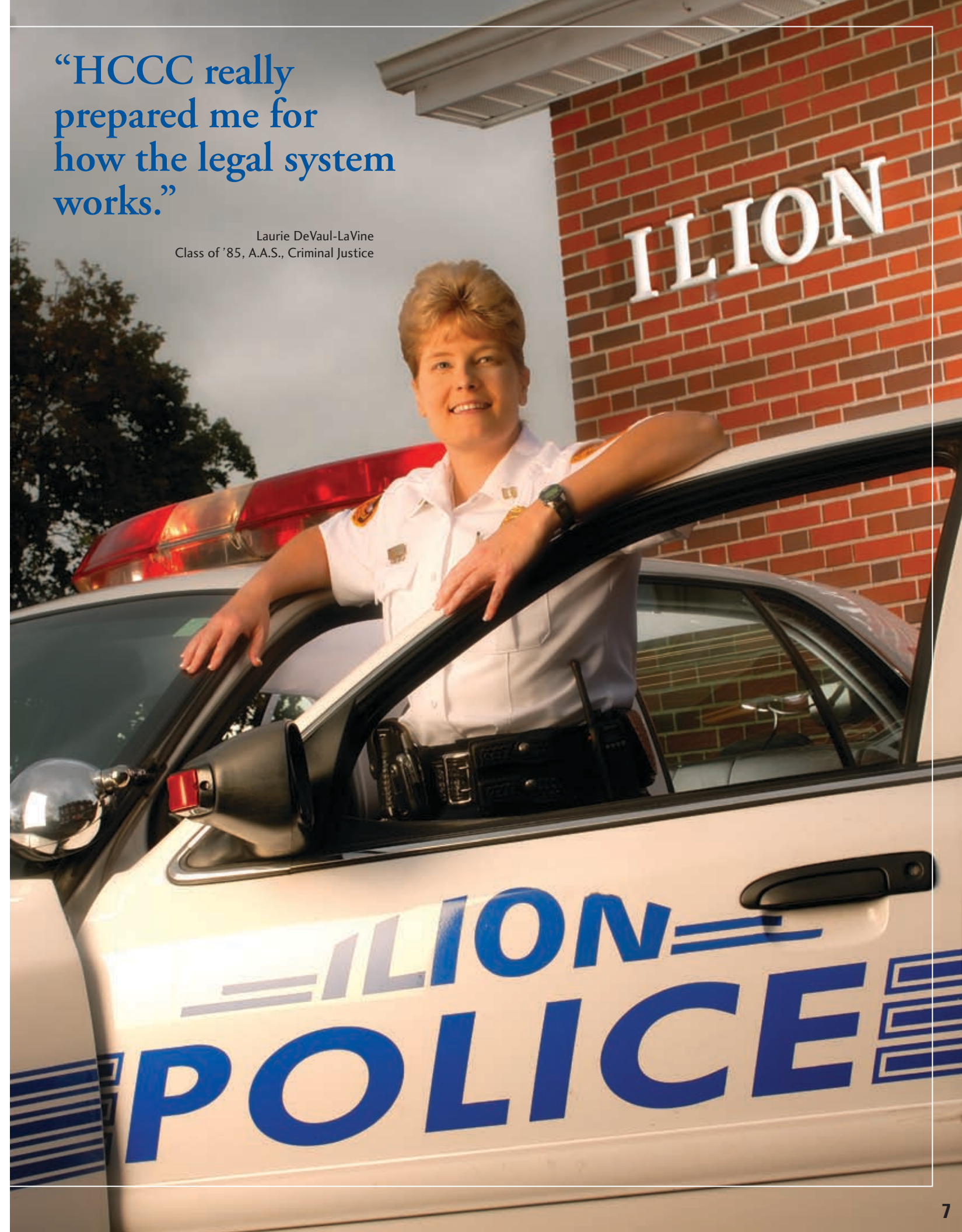
In her nearly 20 years on the job, DeVaul-LaVine said the level of violence has skyrocketed. "It's totally different from when I was first hired," she said. "The age of the offenders is so young now."

Reminiscing on her years at Herkimer, DeVaul-LaVine said she began her college career by taking one criminal justice class after graduating from Ilion High School, and she was hooked. "HCCC really prepared me for how the legal system works," she said. Her favorite memory of HCCC was the "open door" policy of the teachers. "I had a very positive overall experience. The teachers and staff were wonderful, they really wanted you to succeed and they took time to help you. I found them very warm, open and approachable. The setting was perfect," DeVaul-LaVine said. Professor of Criminal Justice Tom Lenahan was one of her favorite teachers, and she said, "I think the world of Guy Corriero (Associate Professor of Art, Emeritus). If I wasn't going to be a cop, I wanted to be an art teacher." DeVaul-LaVine said she has taken classes in forensic investigations through the Police Academy, and thinks it's great HCCC now offers them as part of the criminal justice program.

"It's been a very rewarding career," she said. "I don't count down to my retirement. I can't see myself doing anything else. The best part of my job is my interaction with the community. I live here, I'm not an anonymous person," DeVaul-LaVine said. At one point in her career, she was accepted into the New York State Police Academy, but opted to remain on the Ilion force. "I fell in love with the Ilion Police Department and knew this was right for me. Everyone has a role, performs a task, and as a team you get the job accomplished. I'm glad I chose to stay here. This is my home," she added.

"HCCC really prepared me for how the legal system works."

Laurie DeVaul-LaVine  
Class of '85, A.A.S., Criminal Justice



## Perry Nizzi Named to NJCAA Soccer Hall of Fame

**Former Men's Soccer Coach Perry Nizzi will be honored by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)** in November with induction into its Soccer Hall of Fame. Fittingly, the ceremonies will take place at HCCC as it repeats hosting duties for the NJCAA's National Championships. HCCC Director of Athletics Don Dutcher, who played for Nizzi, described him as follows: "He is the best coach that I played for throughout my athletic career. Not only was he an exceptional motivator, but he was a coach who cared about

his players as individuals. He is an unbelievable teacher of technical and tactical skills in the game of soccer, and his ability to make everyone come together as a team and family proved itself as you look at his stellar coaching career. Perry still is in contact with most of his players and that says a lot about him. He is a coach of high integrity. He always told us never to put on a Herkimer uniform without heart, passion and pride."

Nizzi coached men's soccer at HCCC from 1981-1997, with several undefeated

seasons and NJCAA Division III Championships in 1994, 1995 and 1996. Under Nizzi's leadership, the men's soccer team had 97 straight victories from 1994-1997, finishing with a career record of 291-56-11. A two-time NJCAA Division III Coach of the Year, he guided the team to nine Region III titles.

Nizzi will be one of seven inductees in the Class of 2006 joining 32 players, coaches and contributors already inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame. The ceremony is part of the NJCAA Division III Soccer Tournament Banquet.



Photo courtesy of Hamilton College (John Hubbard)



Poster images by Robert Mesavage Photography • Wilson Cummer/CNYpix.com

## Celebrate Sports at HCCC!

To obtain a copy of HCCC's new Athletic Poster, call 315-866-0300, ext. 8259.

## Legendary Lacrosse Coach, Professor Paul Wehrum Retires from HCCC



A few days before retiring from HCCC, Coach Paul Wehrum was walking across campus when he approached a gentleman in a suit who looked like he was trying to find his way to a meeting. As he was often quick to do, Wehrum introduced himself and offered to help. Almost as quickly, he followed up his warm welcome with the sense of humor many know him for. 'You're in a suit...you must be important,' Wehrum said.

Following 27 years of outstanding service and friendship to the Herkimer County Community College family (and 33 years of service to the State University of New York system), legendary lacrosse coach and professor Paul Wehrum announced his retirement from the College. Wehrum's legacy at HCCC includes a storied head coaching career for the past 27 years with consistent student-athlete success stories in the classroom and on the athletic fields—including 22 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region III Championships and eight NJCAA National Championships (1988-89, '92-96, 2003).

Wehrum has made a significant impact on HCCC and the community as a coach, teacher and friend. HCCC President Ronald Williams said, "Coach Wehrum has brought national recognition to the College and our men's and women's lacrosse program. He has instilled values and life skills in student-athletes on and off the field that remain with them long after they've left HCCC. But most importantly, he has been a mentor, and in some cases, a lifetime friend and advisor to his players and students."

Wehrum coached HCCC's men's lacrosse program from 1979 to 2003. He started HCCC's women's lacrosse program in 2004. The 2005 and 2006 women's teams won the Region III Championship, and the team was named NJCAA Academic Team of the Year for the past three consecutive years.

"I've spent more than half of my life teaching and coaching at HCCC, and consider myself incredibly blessed to have worked closely with so many talented individuals for nearly three decades. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for the opportunity I've had to teach and coach the most amazing and inspiring young people I've met. I will miss the students tremendously because they have not only touched my life, but have made a lasting impression on my family over the years. HCCC and its students will always be in the hearts of the Wehrum family. On a personal level, I want to thank all of the faculty and staff I have worked with over the past 27 years. In particular, Dr. Ron Williams has been a tremendous mentor. His leadership to the College and to me—with a student-first philosophy in the classroom and a commitment to the community—has been inspirational and certainly one of many reasons that make HCCC unique and special."

Wehrum holds the collegiate record of 59 straight wins, and has been named NJCAA Coach of the Year eight times. He was inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1999, the only junior

**Whether a person was playing for Coach Wehrum on men's or women's lacrosse teams at HCCC or cheering the Generals on from the stands, he was always focused on strategizing and encouraging his players.**

college coach to ever receive this honor. In addition to being inducted into the State University College at Cortland Hall of Fame, the Long Island Lacrosse Hall of Fame, and the Upstate New York Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Wehrum is past president of the NJCAA Lacrosse Coaches Association.

In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Wehrum served as professor of health and physical education at Herkimer. In 1996, he was recognized with the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

## Introducing... General Herkimer!

You may have seen him as a statue in Myers Park in downtown Herkimer. He's also been featured on t-shirts. But soon, you'll be seeing General Herkimer in person appearing at Wehrum Stadium to help fans cheer on the College's men's and women's athletic teams as HCCC unveils its first-ever mascot later this fall. He'll be a regular at other campus-sponsored events to further instill the tradition and pride in the Herkimer experience.

Created by the company Street Characters, the creative effort was led by Vince Casale, director of development at HCCC, working closely with the Athletic Department. In addition to its creative work in developing the Herkimer General, the company has created mascots for the Philadelphia Eagles, Detroit Tigers and the Florida Panthers. According to Casale, "We chose Street Characters to create our mascot because they have designed some of the most creative and recognizable mascots not only for today's sports world but also for colleges and corporations. They recognize the importance of associating the image of our mascot with the image and tradition of our college."



TM © Street Characters 2006

**Look for General Herkimer appearing soon at HCCC!**

Let us know if you've recently changed jobs, been promoted, married, or other accomplishments you'd like to share with fellow alumni. If your address has changed, please send us an update (see form below) so we can keep in touch. Thank you.

**Class of 1969**

**FRANK RUSSO**, New Hartford, NY retired from the Utica City School District after teaching English for 33 years. He is now traveling the world.

**ROSEMARY SCADUTO D'AGOSTINO**,

Sound Beach, NY recently retired after 33 years of teaching (25 years, secondary English; and six years, 6<sup>th</sup> grade) with the Middle Country Schools in Long Island.

**Class of 1977**

**KATHLEEN BICE**, Cobleskill, NY is vice principal at the Center for Disability Services in Albany. Her son, Landon Pierce, is currently studying at HCCC and was a member of the 2005 regional and national championship men's soccer team. He has returned to play on this year's team.

**ELIZABETH FEDERICO SOKERKA**, New Smyrna Beach, FL graduated from Stetson University in May 2004 with a bachelor of arts degree in teaching. She is in her third year as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Coronado Beach Elementary School in New Smyrna Beach.

**Class of 1981**

**SARI MABBETT**, Sauk Rapids, MN created/designed a new line of jewelry called "Cairn-Ware." She and her husband, Jeff Overmyer, have two children, Isaac, 10 years old, and Ellery Mae, 8 years old.

**PAUL PARATORE**, Frankfort, NY has been an auditor for Best Western for 23 years, and a U.S. Air Force reservist for 10 years, Desert Shield/Storm veteran. Paratore is landlord of a four-family home, enjoys home renovations, water skiing and scuba diving.

**Class of 1985**

**DANIEL RITZ**, Duluth, GA received a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in business from West Virginia University, where he was a member of the wrestling team. Ritz has been a national accounts manager for McGraw-Hill Publishing's Construction Information Division for 17 years. He married the former Laura Helene Larkins in 2005 and the couple has a daughter, Rosalie Helene, born in July 2005. They also have a yellow lab, MAXX.

**JULIE CIRILLO JOYCE**, Ilion, NY graduated from Utica College in May 1987. She is a registered occupational therapist. She married Kevin Joyce in June 1990 and they have three children, Paul, born in June 1995; Juliana, born in May 1997 and Matthew, born in January 2000.

**DIANE PUFKY VARGO**, Raleigh, NC married on June 12, 1999.

**Class of 1990**

**AMY KOTLARSZ BRAUTLACHT**, Colden, NY married Jim Brautlacht in 1994. They have two children, Kalei ('98) and Ryan ('02). Brautlacht is a stay-at-home mom with a part-time job at the local elementary school.

**MICHAEL COOL**, West Chester, PA married Mardee Abessinio on March 10, 2000. They have two children, Lauren (7/14/02) and Anna (5/23/04) and are expecting another child due at the end of this year.

**Class of 1992**

**HEATHER HOUCK PASQUALE**, Dublin, OH was appointed to the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy by Governor Taft on June 30, 2006. She is a district manager for CVS Pharmacy in Columbus, Ohio and has been employed by CVS Pharmacy for 10 years.

**Class of 1993**

**JENNIFER HAZZARD**, Amsterdam, NY is working at Liberty ARC as an IRA manager of six homes and volunteers for Special Olympics of New York.

**Class of 1994**

**JENNIFER FADDEN FULLER**, Verona, NY married Sean Fuller on May 28, 2006.

**Class of 1995**

**ANDREA ROSENBLATT**, Albany, NY is working at Capital Bayer Insurance as a scanning operator and provides office support services.

**Class of 1996**

**MATT ALHEIM**, Falls Church, VA recently completed his M.B.A. at George Washington University and joined Vitec Broadcast Services as manager of business development and strategic partnerships. Following graduation from HCCC, Alheim earned a B.S. degree from Ithaca College in 1998. He then moved to Los Angeles, CA and worked on such projects as "Boy Meets World," VH1's "Behind the Music," MTV Movie Awards, The Discovery Channel and "ABC World News Tonight."

In 2001, Alheim relocated to the Washington, DC area, accepting a business development position with Atlantic Video, Inc., a production management company best known for producing shows such as Animal Planet's "The Pet Psychic" series, ESPN's "Pardon the Interruption," "Around the Horn" and "Cold Pizza." He worked on such projects as "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart", MTV's "To Be Heard: A Global Discussion with Colin Powell" and "Controversy: The Reagans", the first ever non-sports live special for Showtime Networks.

**VALERIE VALENT PIETRAS**, Herkimer, NY married **EVERETT PIETRAS** ('95) on October 1, 2005.

**Class of 1997**

**KRISTEN BUNTING RUTLEDGE**, Hamilton, NY married Tom Rutledge in August 2001. She has a stepdaughter, Alisha and son, Ryan. Rutledge recently became a PACS Administrator at Hamilton Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine.

**Class of 2000**

**KATHLEEN WOLLABER BROWN**, Mohawk, NY is employed by RCIL, Herkimer.

**GLENN WALDRON, JR.**, Mohawk, NY is engaged to Kristen Carpenter Phillips ('06).

**Class of 2002**

**REBECCA RAUSCHER MROZ**, New Hartford, NY married Jeremy Mroz on September 14, 2002. She is employed by Mohawk Valley Community Action as a teacher assistant in the Head Start program.

**Class of 2003**

**PAMELA ELLER**, Utica, NY earned a bachelor's degree in social work from The College of St. Rose in 2005, and a master's in social work from Syracuse University in 2006. She is employed as a social worker for Family Services of the Mohawk Valley, with the Young Scholars program.

**LUTHER MAHONEY**, Manhattan, KS graduated with honors from SUC at Oneonta in 2005 with a degree in chemistry and American Chemical Society (ACS) certification. Mahoney is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth J. Klabunde at Kansas State University. The research Mahoney is involved with uses transition metal doped nanoparticles to break down environmental pollutants, such as poisonous carbon monoxide gas.

**Class of 2004**

**STEPHANIE CALCARA**, Whitesboro, NY recently graduated from Utica College with a bachelor's degree in psychology and childhood education. She is currently studying in UC's graduate program for inclusion.

**KAYLA HERNE**, Akwesasne, NY is attending SUC at Brockport, majoring in physical education-sports management and minoring in coaching.

**Class of 2005**

**BRITTANY FIORINI**, Rome, NY is a student at SUC at Brockport, playing field hockey and lacrosse. She recently traveled to Europe with Team USA to play field hockey in the World Youth Games.

**HCCC Alumni Association Benefits**

By joining the Alumni Association you can take advantage of these Great Benefits!

- 10% discount on any clothing or souvenir item that is not on sale at the HCCC Bookstore!  
*(Offer also available online. When ordering indicate membership code in text box.)*
- Discounts up to 10% available on car rentals through AVIS Rent-A-Car
- 15% Discount on room rates at participating Comfort, Quality, Sleep, Econo Lodge, Clarion, Rodeway and Mainstay hotels worldwide.
- 50% reduction in the cost of an HCCC Fitness Center membership
- Lifetime job placement services available to you at no cost
- Assistance with resume and cover letter preparation
- Invitations to local/regional alumni events and on-campus events

If you require further information please feel free to contact the Alumni Office directly at (315) 866-0300 or toll free in New York State at 1-888-GO4-HCCC, Ext. 8259 or email: [casaleva@herkimer.edu](mailto:casaleva@herkimer.edu)

**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:*

**CURTIS GLOVER** '06, Manhattan, NY died unexpectedly on September 8, 2006 in the Bronx. One of 14 children, Glover graduated from HCCC in May with a degree in Criminal Justice: Forensic Investigations. At HCCC, he was a resident assistant, member of the Judicial Board, gatekeeper for Campus Safety and very active student leader. He is survived by two daughters. Expressions of sympathy and donations can be sent to his mother, Mrs. Rochelle Glover, 240 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 27A, New York, NY 10023.

**ALUMNI UPDATE**

RETURN FORM TO: Alumni Association, HCCF, 100 Reservoir Road, Herkimer, NY 13350

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.

**HCCC ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH THOMAS H. BARTHEL** was named a Scholar-in-Residence at Hamilton College for the coming academic year. He will utilize this distinction to continue researching and writing a biography of U.S. Civil War General Abner Doubleday, who fired the first shot at Fort Sumter. The book will include a brief exploration of how a fabrication of his invention of baseball in Cooperstown came to be accepted, even today, by

many as true. He is scheduled to have his fourth book "Baseball Barnstorming and Exhibition Games: 1901-1962: A History of Off-Season Major League Play" published in November 2006. His fifth book, "Those Peerless Semipro, the Brooklyn Bushwicks of Dexter Park" is

due to appear in February 2007. A member of the HCCC faculty since 1969, he has taught more than 15 courses and is currently teaching courses in composition, literature, drama, the short story and American literature.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FINE ARTS MARYANN WRINN** had her artwork featured in a juried regional art exhibit this summer at Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts. Her mixed media collage was titled "Nature/Nurture." **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GALE FARLEY** also participated in this show with a Ciclee print of the digital photograph entitled, "Conversations."

**ANDREW DEVITT, INSTRUCTOR, DEVELOPMENTAL WRITING,** will have his short story, "Assassin's Playground," published in the fantasy anthology "Bash Down the

Door and Slice Open the Badguy." In 2007, his comic book series, "Channels," is set to debut from FE Comics. A.G. Devitt's writing career began when he was 16 and collaborated with the great W.C. Pope on his underground comic book, "Arthur's World." Since then, Devitt has had numerous short stories published in such places as Pulp Stories Quarterly. Devitt was also the writer/creator of the independent comics Monk, Mortal Coyle, Doug & Punk's Pulp Adventures, and The Custodian. He collaborated with artist Brandon Dawley online for Insensitive Romance's Angry Guy Stories ([www.brandondawley.com](http://www.brandondawley.com)), and will once again team up with Dawley for the comic book series Channels, to be published by FE Comics. He is currently at work on a second novel, the first of an action/adventure series for young adults.

**SVEN TRENHOLM, INSTRUCTOR OF DEVELOPMENTAL MATHEMATICS,** was published in the Spring 2006 edition of *Research and Teaching in Developmental Education* (RTDE) with the article, "A Study on the Efficacy of Computer-Mediated Developmental Math Instruction for Traditional Community College Students." The article looks at how effective computers are in helping teach traditional community college students. This is part one of a two-part article largely comprised of the literature review portion of the study.

# A Look Back at the History of Herkimer County Community College

## 1960s

### AUGUST 16, 1965

The Herkimer County Board of Supervisors recommends the establishment of a community college, subject to a referendum vote at the next general election. The referendum is later passed during the November general election.

### JANUARY 13, 1966

SUNY Trustees resolve to sponsor and establish a community college for the County of Herkimer. Herkimer County Community College (HCCC) becomes the 29th community college in the State of New York.

### OCTOBER 10, 1966

Robert McLaughlin is appointed President of HCCC, effective December 1, 1966, by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

### DECEMBER 27, 1966

A 100-acre Homyk site adjacent to the Village of Herkimer, along with access roads, water and sewer connections is made available as the permanent site for the College at no cost to the College. This offer comes about largely as the result of a gift of Mohawk Data Sciences stock.

### FEBRUARY 2, 1967

The first student is accepted for admission to the College: Keith D. Edwards from Ilion.

### MAY 25, 1967

The Herkimer County College (HCC) Foundation is organized and agrees to purchase 200 acres of land as requested by the Trustees.

### SEPTEMBER 25, 1967

Registration results show 221 full-time and 101 part-time students, including 74 evening students and 17 in the Old Forge location. The initial professional staff number 16 and the teaching faculty include Robert Dorrance, William Elenko, Raymond Lenarcic, Arthur Muller, Charles Sadowski, Shirley Samuels, Dorothy Sharo, Jean Stapleton and Charles Webster.

### JUNE 8, 1969

Eighty-eight graduates of HCCC receive their diplomas at the College's first commencement.

### OCTOBER 12, 1969

Formal ground breaking ceremonies are held for the new permanent campus.

## 1970s

### SEPTEMBER 20, 1971

Classes begin at the new campus with full-time enrollment at 884 and part-time credit students exceeding 200.

### MARCH 1, 1972

HCCC is granted full accreditation by the Middle States Association (MSA).

## 1980s

### 1981

The Computer Laboratory in Johnson Hall opens with 10 Apple II, three PET, one NCR 8150, a TRS-80 and a Singer 1501.C computer system. Soon after, 24 MDS System 2100 terminals and 19 Apple IIE computers are added.

### 1982

The Child Care Center opens, enabling many parents to pursue career or retraining interests.

### JULY 1986

President Robert McLaughlin retires, and Dr. Ronald F. Williams is appointed President.

### 1986 - 1987

The College's cable TV station becomes a reality as a result of a member item grant from State Senator James Donovan for the purchase of microwave equipment.

### FALL 1987

HCCC wins its first National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national championship title in field hockey.

### SEPTEMBER 1989

HCCC offers its first off-site college classes, later known as College Now, at Mt. Markham High School.

## 1990s

### FEBRUARY 18, 1991

The new 33,000 square-foot Technology Center is dedicated, providing classroom and laboratory space.

### SEPTEMBER 1994

HCCC opens the Old Forge Education Center to address the educational needs of Town of Webb residents.

### APRIL 1995

HCCC establishes a website on the World Wide Web providing visitors with a broad range of information about the College.

### SEPTEMBER 1997

Enrollment for fall 1997 is 2467, 666% above the College's initial enrollment of 322 students. International students represent various countries including Ghana, Japan, Dominican Republic, Sweden, Egypt, Russia, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, El Salvador, India, Kenya, Bosnia, Haiti, Taiwan, Belarus, Vietnam, China, United Kingdom, Honduras and Mexico.

### MAY 1999

HCCC launches its Internet Academy with six complete degrees online.

### JUNE 1999

The College completes a \$9.1 million expansion to the Robert McLaughlin College Center and Physical Education Building.

### JUNE 1999

Nine people instrumental in the development of HCCC are selected and honored as the first recipients of the Torchbearer Awards. They include Bess Cristman, Virgil E. Johnson, Frederick Jurer, Harold Luther, Dr. James Anderson, Richard Jorrey, Robert McLaughlin, Anthony Cosentino and Dr. Donald Gavagan.

## 2000s

### MARCH 2000

HCCC's Alumni Association holds its Inaugural Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony in Alumni Hall to honor eight alumni who have distinguished themselves among their peers in the pursuit of excellence in areas of personal achievement, professional accomplishment or community service. The first group of alumni honored are: Theodore R. Adams, Rose Marie Battisti-Bruce, Daniel J. Burling, Randolph J. Collins, Harrison J. Hummel III, Leigh Keno, Leslie Keno and James A. W. McLeod.

### SEPTEMBER 2000

The Radio-TV program launches a five-year campaign to transition the technology to a more modern digital format.

### AUGUST 2003

Reservoir Run student housing opens, making HCCC the largest residential community college in New York State.

### OCTOBER 2005

The College officially opens its new athletic stadium, the first at a community college in New York State to have a synthetic turf field.

### MAY 2006

HCCC holds its 38th annual commencement with a record 592 graduates. The ceremony was available for the first time online through streaming video on the College's home page.

### JULY 2006

The College celebrates its 40th anniversary at the Community Independence Day Celebration.

### JULY 2006

Dr. Ronald F. Williams celebrates his 20th anniversary as president of Herkimer County Community College.

## Remembering HCCC Supporter and Friend Richard S. Jorrey

*Jorrey was instrumental in the building of Herkimer County Community College and served as a member of its Board of Trustees for a number of years.*

**Richard S. Jorrey, 78, a former Herkimer County Legislator and retired Business Manager for the Dolgeville Central School District, died August 23, 2006.** A life-long resident of the town of Salisbury, he and his wife, Clara, had recently celebrated 56 years of marriage. Dick was first employed by the H.P. Snyder Manufacturing Company of Little Falls as an accountant and office manager from 1950 until 1969. He then became the Dolgeville Central School account clerk and treasurer. In 1971, he was appointed as Business Manager until his retirement in 1987. After his retirement, he continued on in an interim basis as the business manager for the Herkimer Central School and the Oppenheim Central School. His political career began in 1957 when he was elected as the Town of Salisbury Supervisor. He then began serving on the Herkimer County Board of Supervisors. He then was elected as the Legislator for District 16, which included the towns of Salisbury, Fairfield and Newport and served a total of 33 years. During that time, he was instrumental in the building of the Salisbury Town Garage, the Herkimer County Home for the Aged in Middleville, and Herkimer County Community College, where he served as a member of the Board of Trustees for a number of years. A devoted community person, Dick served faithfully in the Salisbury Center Methodist Church, where he was the treasurer for over 35 years. He was currently the Secretary of the Salisbury Center Grange #624 and a past Master for many years. Dick took great pride in the community of Salisbury and spear-headed many efforts to preserve its past. He was instrumental in having the Salisbury Center Covered Bridge, the Salisbury Center Grange and the Frisbee House placed on the National Register of Historic Places. He is survived by his wife, Clara; a son, Gregory; a daughter and her husband, Susan and Dr. Kurt Foxton. A memorial service was held on September 9 at the Salisbury Center United Methodist Church.





*The sun sets on the entrance to HCCC's Wehrum Stadium.*

## Upcoming Events

### **MEN'S BASKETBALL REGIONALS**

March 2 & 3, 2007

Gymnasium, Physical Education Building

### **COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE**

March 31, 2007 9am-2pm

Robert McLaughlin College Center

### **6TH ANNUAL WORLD CUISINE FESTIVAL**

April 17, 2007 6-9 p.m.

Robert McLaughlin College Center

### **WOMEN'S LACROSSE REGIONALS**

May 5 & 6, 2007

Wehrum Stadium

### **MEN'S LACROSSE REGIONALS**

May 5 & 6, 2007

Wehrum Stadium

### **WOMEN'S LACROSSE NATIONALS**

May 12 & 13, 2007

Wehrum Stadium

### **39TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT**

May 18, 2007

Gymnasium, Physical Education Building



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

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