



Herkimer  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

# Connections

SPRING 2016

Reflecting on  
the Past;  
Building  
a Successful  
Future



- 5 Welcome  
President McColgin
- 18 Hall of Fame Inductions
- 26 A Celebration  
of 50 Years

# A MESSAGE FROM THE Foundation Director

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**ROBERT FOWLER**



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It seems as though we went from saying “Happy New Year” to preparing for Commencement in the blink of an eye, but time flies when there’s plenty to do! There’s been a whirlwind of activity with the Foundation this year, and I want to share some of that with you.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our alumni and friends in the business community, we’ve established several new student scholarships this year. The Curtis S. Francisco scholarship to benefit business students and the MTPT scholarship for an incoming freshman pursuing any STEM-related programs of study are two that stand out. A special thanks to Margaret Hager Hart for her significant contribution to the Margaret T. Quackenbush Memorial Scholarship, making its award the largest the Foundation has to give.

A new partnership with the IBEW Local 43 resulted in funding for a new scoreboard at the baseball facility. Through new partnerships and relationships such as this, we hope to continue to address various needs of the College and its programs, and we’re very grateful to the IBEW Local 43 for helping us to get things started!

Our efforts to locate and establish relationships with our alumni are ongoing and it remains one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. I have been fortunate to meet many of you and learn about your successes since your days at Herkimer. As we approach the summer, I look forward to continuing to get out and meet with as many of you as I can.

I thank you for your continued support and wish you all a terrific summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Fowler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Fowler  
Executive Director  
Herkimer County College Foundation



## A MESSAGE FROM THE President

### DR. CATHLEEN C. McCOLGIN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the first year of my presidency comes to a close, I would like to express my appreciation to everyone for the warm welcome that has been extended to me and my husband, Bob. I am as thrilled to be here as the first day I stepped on campus.

I carry around an index card labeled, Previous Innovations at Herkimer, which reminds me of all the initiatives that have contributed to making Herkimer College the institution that it is today. From being one of the first community colleges to offer on-campus housing, to being a leader in online learning, to growing a diverse student body, to achieving national recognition in athletics, at the core is a highly credentialed and dedicated team of faculty and staff.

Many years ago, a former colleague introduced me to the Ghanaian Sankofa symbol and its meaning. The Sankofa bird is found flying forward with its head turned backwards taking an egg off its back. Its symbol represents “the need to reflect on the past in order to build a successful future.”

With the continued support of the Herkimer County Legislature, as well as the Herkimer County College Foundation, we will continue to build on our past successes while identifying new opportunities for growth and renewal. How do we achieve such goals? Like the character in Richard Paul Evan’s book, *The Spyglass*, we must first see what might be . . . and then make it so. This is what I see . . .

I see a community that is at a pivotal point in its history. The introduction of nanotechnology and the explosion of career opportunities in the STEM disciplines is exciting. Over the next decade, as the baby boomer workforce begins to retire, the need for highly trained, qualified employees will never be greater.

I see the need for skilled and educated workers in the fields of agribusiness, health care, tourism, manufacturing, human services and alternative energy. As a partner in workforce and economic

development, Herkimer College will develop new academic programs in areas that didn’t even exist 10 to 15 years ago. We will be laser-focused as we prepare future leaders for our businesses, communities, state, country and beyond.

I see a growing spirit of optimism and momentum of collaboration and creative, new ideas in the Mohawk Valley. I can feel the renewed pride this region is discovering in itself. And Herkimer County Community College will be an integral part of this process of positive growth and community empowerment.

This is our promise to our students. This is our promise to our community.

Sincerely,



Cathleen C. McColgin, Ph.D.  
President







# *The Inauguration of* Cathleen C. McColgin, Ph.D.



"ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I AM HONORED TO PUBLICLY CONGRATULATE DR. M<sup>C</sup>COLGIN ON THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN HER CAREER. IN THE SHORT TIME SHE HAS BEEN HERE, SHE HAS SHOWN TREMENDOUS LEADERSHIP, ENERGY AND INSPIRATION, WHICH SHE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO DELIVER TO OUR INSTITUTION AND THE PEOPLE WE SERVE."

Isabella Crandall, Chairwoman, Board of Trustees

# Welcoming Herkimer County Community College's



Herkimer County Community College's fourth president Dr. Cathleen C. McColgin was formally installed in an inauguration ceremony in the Sarkus-Busch Theater on Friday, April 8, 2016. The traditional academic ceremony was attended by more than 400 participants and guests including current and former college trustees, faculty, staff, administrators, students, emeriti, retirees, community leaders, college delegates, and McColgin's family and friends.

Members of the Michael Pliseck VFW Post 4915 of Herkimer presented the colors while adjunct instructor Jose Lopez sang the "Star Spangled Banner." The invocation and benediction were delivered by The Reverend Victor McKusick, interim pastor at Whitesboro Presbyterian Church and member of the Herkimer College class of 2016. Greetings and congratulatory remarks were delivered by Academic Senate President Jeffrey Steele, Student Government Association President Rhiannon Steele, Provost Michael Oriolo, and Herkimer County Legislature Chairman Bernard Peplinski Sr. In her remarks, Rhiannon Steele said, "Dr. McColgin is here for the students. She has a passion for seeing students excel in their lives and careers and is constantly looking for ways to help them become successful. Dr. McColgin truly believes that the success of a college depends on the success of its students." Linda Alfieri, professor and director of nursing at Cayuga Community College, and Dr. Dennis Golladay, former vice chancellor of community colleges for the State University of New York and current president of Harford Community College, also spoke during the ceremony.

A special musical selection, "For Good" by Stephen Schwartz, performed by a vocal trio, Megan Breit of Frankfort, Haley Dugan of West Winfield, and Emily Schumske of Herkimer, garnered a standing ovation. The three students are all 2016 Communication



# Fourth President

**DR. CATHLEEN C. McCOLGIN**



Arts: Music Industry majors. They were accompanied by adjunct instructor of music Ann Kocuba.

Representing the State University of New York, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges Johanna Duncan-Poitier conducted the investiture by placing on McColgin the presidential medallion and chain of office, thereby signifying the authority of the office. In her inauguration address, McColgin said, “An inauguration is an important milestone in the history of the institution. It is an opportunity to collectively pause and reflect on our past, and to celebrate our history, our traditions and our achievements. It is also a time for the campus community to look forward to the future through a new lens, with a renewed spirit and enthusiasm.”

In her closing remarks, Board of Trustees Chairwoman Isabella Crandall said, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am honored to publicly congratulate Dr. McColgin on this important milestone in her career. In the short time she has been here, she has shown tremendous leadership, energy and inspiration, which she will undoubtedly continue to deliver to our institution and the people we serve.” A reception for all in attendance immediately followed the ceremony.

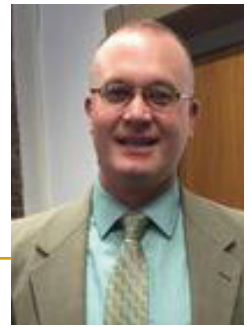
McColgin’s appointment was approved by the State University of New York Board of Trustees in January 2015, and she began her tenure as president on June 1, 2015. “Dr. McColgin is the right leader to build on Herkimer County Community College’s strong foundation of academic excellence, providing an encouraging and quality experience for our students, faculty, and staff,” said Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. “I am proud to officially welcome her as president on behalf of the entire university system.”



Photos from the Inauguration Ceremony are available at [www.herkimer.edu/inauguration](http://www.herkimer.edu/inauguration)

# Educating an Educator

**COSIMO TANGORRA '90, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**



**WHEN COSIMO TANGORRA ENTERED HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WORKING IN EDUCATION WAS THE LEAST OF HIS PLANS. TODAY, AFTER NUMEROUS LOCAL AND STATE EDUCATION POSITIONS, HE WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO BECOME NISKAYUNA, NEW YORK'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.**

“Dr. Tangorra brings an exceptional breadth and depth of experience to our district, and we are thrilled to announce this appointment,” Patricia Lanotte, Board of Education president, said in a press release. In 2014, the school was ranked 26th best in the nation, and sixth best in New York. To accept the position, Tangorra stepped down from his responsibilities as deputy commissioner for the New York State Department of Education. Previously, he taught special education, served as superintendent in four school districts and led the merger of the Iliion and Mohawk School Districts into what is now Central Valley Academy. But education hadn't always been his dream.

“The professors – they were so good at relating what we were learning in class to the world and to other classes. They demonstrated that what we were learning in class, we could take it to our community; we could make a difference. My outlook changed. I learned to write, to communicate. I became excited about learning.”

Tangorra's excitement about learning did not stop after he graduated with an associate degree

in social science. He would go on to earn a BA in Psychology from Siena College, an MS in Special Education from the College of St. Rose, a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from SUNY Cortland, and a Doctorate of Education from Sage College. But first, he discovered the world of education and being an educator.

“I worked at the college [Herkimer] in the Registrar's Office,” Tangorra explains. “I saw it all; it was like I was ‘behind the curtain,’ so to speak, as a student employee.” While working for the college, Tangorra got to know the administrative staff and the professors, and developed skills both academically and administratively. “That's why Herkimer County Community College has had the biggest influence of all the schools [I've attended]. I started to think about education; how can I become an educator?”

“I give Herkimer County Community College all the credit,” Tangorra says, “especially professors Ray Lenarcic, Gary Ruff and Sally Durkee... There have been so many people who mentored me, accepted me, advised me, who helped me develop as an educator. Now I feel obliged to do the same.”





# Ways to **give** to Herkimer College

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

**There are many ways you can support Herkimer College.**



## **Contact Us**

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

## Contribute to the Annual Fund

Unrestricted gifts to the annual fund are allocated at the discretion of the Foundation. Funds are used to award scholarships to deserving students in need, advances in technology, and professional development for students, faculty, and staff.

Donors may also give a gift to the annual fund for a specific department or program of choice. A restricted gift allows you to specify exactly what part of the Herkimer College community you want your donation to impact.

## Memorial Donations

Memorial donations are a fitting way to honor the life of a deeply loved or respected individual. Donors can contribute to more than 90 established scholarship programs. Contributors gifting eligible amounts may also have the opportunity to start and name a new scholarship.

## In-Kind Gifts

Donating items or equipment helps enrich our learning environment and enhance the student experience. In-kind gifts such as equipment, artistic or cultural items, educational tools, or anything else you feel would benefit the College are always appreciated as they contribute to the student experience.

## Planned Giving

Gift planning allows you to create a legacy and ensure your donations have a lasting impact on our institution and the lives of students and their families. We will work with your financial planner, consultant or accountant to develop a plan that favorably utilizes tax regulations to maximize your gift's impact on the College while minimizing its effect on your estate.

## Become a Partner in Education

The Partners in Education program recognizes businesses, groups and private individuals who donate \$2,000 or more to the Herkimer County College Foundation. Our partners, through their annual support, receive special recognition throughout the year for their charitable donation.

## Sponsor an Event

The Foundation seeks corporate sponsors for fundraising events such as the Generals Open Golf Tournament and the Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair. Sponsorships are a great way for companies and organizations to connect with the community, and they provide valuable public relations opportunities. Sponsorships greater than \$2,000 qualify for recognition through our Partners in Education program.

## Volunteer

By giving your time and talent, you help to advance the mission of the College and provide opportunities for local students. The Foundation welcomes volunteers to assist with fundraising events.

# Giving It Back

**DARTRAY BELK, '06 TURNING PERSONAL**



Dartray Belk grew up in housing projects in South Jamaica Queens, NY, finding himself in middle school with no knowledge of how to read or write.

Fast-forward a few years and he's a college graduate with a bachelor's degree, a sworn officer for the New York City Police Department, and can claim more volunteer experiences and community projects than many have in a lifetime.

Belk is a community affairs liaison officer with the 26th precinct in Harlem, NY, the Manhattan trustee for the NYPD Guardians Association, member of the Free Masons fraternal order, and catalyst for change wherever he happens to be. His mantra has always been perseverance and determination, and he recognizes it stems from his upbringing.

"I grew up with my grandmother; she is the reason I am the person I am today. She taught me to do what I need to do and stay on it until I get to the top," Belk says confidently. Unfortunately, this confidence did not come naturally, and his lack of education was the key factor. "I was told around 7th grade that I couldn't read or write, and that was the pivotal point of my life," he recalls. "I really turned it around and started to push myself." From that moment on, he worked every day to improve his mind by reading the newspaper: comic strips, the sports section, anything to get him started. With no one to help, it was up to him to make it happen.

Dartray joined the Boy Scouts of America around the same time. Integral components of Boy Scout activities are volunteering and community service, sparking his interest in philanthropy. Even as a young boy, he would give his summers over to the local Veteran's Affairs hospital and get to know the men and their history. With such ambition and hard work, Belk's obvious next step was to get into college. But without proper guidance, where to begin?

"I was just about to go into the military," Belk says. "I stepped outside and they were waiting for me to get in the vehicle to sign over my life to the military. As I'm about to, my phone rings. It was somebody from Herkimer!" He chuckles, "I kid you not, two days later I got accepted, and that's where it all started."

Belk entered Herkimer in 2003 as a member of the basketball team. He cites his professors and coaches as his main supporters and mentors during



## HARDSHIPS INTO A LIFE OF PHILANTHROPY

his journey through Herkimer. Looking back at his struggles with literacy, he credits Assistant Professor of English Andrew Devitt in particular for his help. “I came across Professor Devitt in a writing class,” he says. “I loved writing more and more every day. With him opening that door, it opened me to a lot of things in life. He taught me how to be free. Whatever you write on paper, you express it and you express yourself.” His academic development took off at that point, and Belk began to improve in all areas of the classroom. “I owe all praise to Herkimer, that’s where it all began for me. They took the time out to understand me. I don’t know if they saw something in me, but they worked with me.”

“Dartray was one of my first students and I can still remember the writing he did for my class,” says Devitt. “What I remember most about him, aside from his work ethic, was how focused he was. He knew what he wanted from life, and I never doubted he would succeed.”

After graduating from Herkimer in 2006, Dartray moved on to the University of Hartford in Connecticut to play basketball and, of course, continue volunteering. One of his projects, Stomp the Violence, put focus directly in schools. He was interacting with and educating the students as well as pushing for community grants while even continuing his own studies. Picking up an internship shortly after, Belk worked closely with community leaders and the local police department on the Weed and Seed project, an initiative to ‘weed’ out negativity and ‘seed’ positive, productive action in the community. That internship led him to a spokesperson position for the 1 Percent Plan push, a funding effort for community improvements. “It’s a high-poverty area, Hartford. The community was very violent and being given the opportunity to work in there, I became a difference-maker.”

Difference-maker is a title that Belk has worked hard to earn. Even now, his goal is to improve community relations between its members and his police department in Harlem. He has organized events from basketball games to rock climbing, educational clinics to community dinners. In his capacity as an officer, he calls it “bridging the gap” between the department and the people. His focus is to nurture those relationships and create a thriving community of active citizens.

As our country continues to shine a light on dissent between public and police force and increasing violence on all fronts, Belk offers insight from both sides of the fence. “I can break it down like this: The national unrest depends on your neighborhood. You have to see it on a different scale,” he explains. “I’ve lived it both sides. I lived in a heavy area. The only way the community can stop this violence is to become active in it. I tell people all the time, you can’t rely on the community leaders. You are the community leader. You make a difference.” His mission has always been to give his communities the resources to be proactive.

Belk’s story is laced with personal hardships, but he hopes that others can learn from his experiences and be inspired to take action wherever they are. “From being a little kid who didn’t know how to read to being very successful in my craft, it has been amazing,” he says. “Give it back, that’s the main thing. Give it back.”



# The Sound of Success

JEFF MULLEN '93 EMMY WINNING SOUND DESIGNER



**“THERE ARE NUMEROUS WORDS TO DESCRIBE WHAT I DO,” SAYS JEFF MULLEN, RADIO-TV BROADCASTING GRADUATE. “I USUALLY SAY I’M AN AUDIO ENGINEER OR A SOUND DESIGNER. I WORK RIGHT NOW IN BROADCASTING AND MOST OF MY WORK IS PRIMARILY IN COMMERCIALS AND PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS CALLED PROMOS.”**

While it sounds straightforward in that sense, Mullen’s work boasts prestigious names like Discovery Channel, TLC, National Geographic, ESPN and PBS as cable television clients, along with commercials for Little Caesar’s, Rosetta Stone

and Pepsi. “I also do some long-form television shows, some web, some corporate videos,” Mullen says, trying to think of the many facets of his work. “Really anything that would require an audio element that is tied to video, I’ve probably done.”

After 20 years in the audio production business, Mullen still remembers how it all started at Herkimer. At the time, his pursuit was a music career, not production. “I was looking through the catalog back then and I saw Radio and Television Broadcasting,” he recalls. “It had some of the components I thought I’d be interested in and decided to give it a shot. That’s how my Herkimer story started.”

Mullen never dreamed of a career in sound design in particular, but he found the creative outlet he was searching for in the audio labs at Herkimer. “I saw how some of those things I was learning could





translate into what I thought I wanted to do in my music endeavors. I really got involved in working in the labs; I was able to tap into a certain level of creativity that I didn't even realize was there. I enjoyed the audio production side. That was my favorite part of being [at Herkimer]."

The audio design that Mullen specializes in works because of his musical inclinations. "It's subtle," Mullen explains, "But it's one of those things that if you take it away you realize how much it affects

"I saw Radio and Television Broadcasting. It had some of the components I thought I'd be interested in and decided to give it a shot. That's how my Herkimer story started." JEFF MULLEN

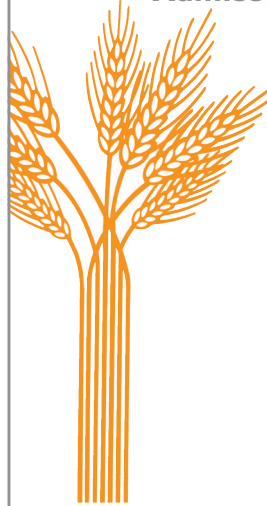
those products. I work very rhythmically; my background is as a musician. I'm a percussionist, so I have a rhythmic sense in everything I do even if it's very subtle. When I get the opportunity to lean on that knowledge I really enjoy it. It's become my style and the way I can express my creativity."

That creativity has led to an Emmy award for sound designing PBS's 2014 Fall Preview promo campaign. "Basically, there are broadcasters who will put together a package of promos for what they have to offer for the upcoming season. That's what PBS did, they had numerous promos within this promo campaign." says Mullen. "I did the sound design and mix for those. It says on the actual award 'Sound Designer/Mixer.'"

Mullen continues to work through his own company, Sonichead, but he hasn't ruled out embarking on new projects with an open mind. "The ability to adapt to change is paramount in the media world. I've done video editing, I've directed, I've run cameras, I've done about every job in media there could possibly be," he says. "I landed here in this macro-unique world that is audio mixing, but it's not to say I couldn't try other things."

# 40th Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, November 12 | 10 AM-5 PM  
 Sunday, November 13 | 10 AM-4 PM  
 Admission \$4 | Free parking



Featuring top artisans showcasing their works including pottery, gourmet foods, wood working, textiles, weaving, oil painting, dolls, soaps, jewelry and more.

Artists and crafts persons interested in exhibiting in this year's show, please visit [herkimer.edu/ac](http://herkimer.edu/ac) for more information and an application.

All proceeds benefit student scholarships.  
[www.herkimer.edu/ac](http://www.herkimer.edu/ac)



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For more info, contact Jan Marie Fuhrer at [fuhrerjm@herkimer.edu](mailto:fuhrerjm@herkimer.edu) or by calling 315.866.0300 x8269.

# The Confidence to Pursue Dreams

DAVID RAMPE, PH.D., '79, SCIENTIST, AUTHOR, INVENTOR

DAVID RAMPE, PH.D., LEFT HERKIMER COLLEGE IN 1979 WITH A DEGREE IN SCIENCE AND TWO YEARS OF FOUNDATIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE. HERKIMER WAS THE FIRST STEP ON HIS PATH FROM AN AMBITIOUS STUDENT TO THE SUCCESSFUL PHARMACOLOGIST HE IS TODAY.

Even as a young boy, Rampe says that his interest in science and medicine has always been there, so the choice to pursue it in college was natural. He followed

into pharmacology,” he recalls.

Rampe says that his time at Herkimer was key in building his confidence to continue on to

followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine where he solidified his narrowed field of study to ion channels within the cardiovascular system—in the basest of terms, how medicines interact with the heart.

Clearly, Rampe has put this education to good use. Despite being an author and contributor of over 80 publications as well as co-inventor on several drug patents, he cites his biggest career accomplishment as helping unravel how pharmaceutical drugs can produce arrhythmias in the heart, which was a major advance in drug development beginning in the 1990's and continuing through the present. “Lots of people worked on it, so I say ‘helping,’” he says with a laugh.

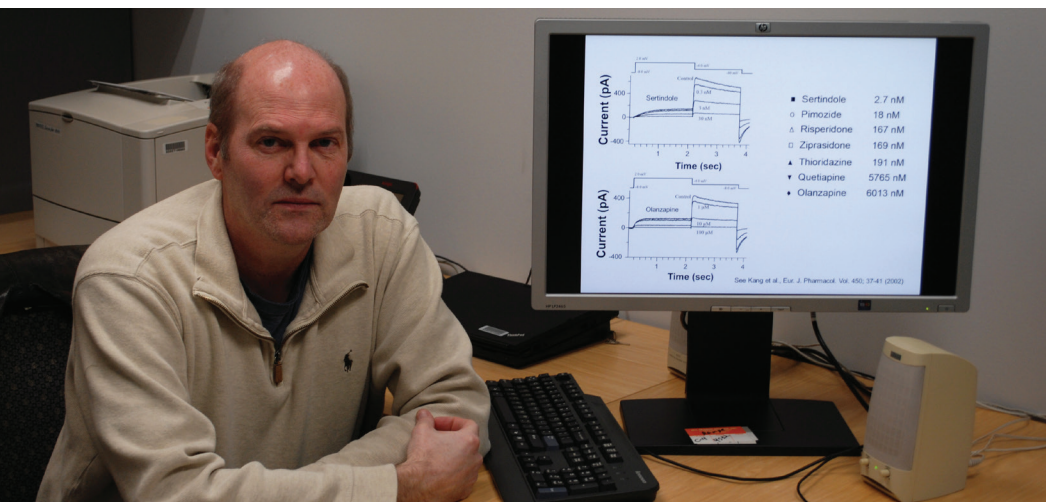
Rampe has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for the past 27 years to improve the medicines and treatments we use every day, but he never forgets where he came from and the school that gave him his start. “I still remember Herkimer,” Rampe stresses, “I do my best to go back when I can. Herkimer gave me the preparation I needed to succeed.”

his passion and worked toward a degree in science from Herkimer, along the way discovering that he wanted to do more than study biology alone.

With that in mind, Rampe applied and was accepted to the University of Buffalo's prestigious and selective School of Pharmacy. He remembers taking the classes and realizing that it was the basic science of medicine and discovery that drew him to pharmacology. “After my third year, I decided to transfer out of pharmacy school

a four-year institution. “Coming from a small rural school, I didn't feel like I got the best education, I felt insecure,” Rampe recalls. “But at Herkimer the teachers were good, I got my feet wet and started taking courses like physics and chemistry. I was still hesitant at the University of Buffalo, like, ‘I just went to a two year school. Am I ready for a bigger institution?’ But Herkimer prepared me well.”

He continued at Buffalo receiving his Ph.D. from the Department of Biochemical Pharmacology





# A Fashion Forward Future

**ERIN KOVATCHITCH FRIAS '02, NATIONAL SALES MANAGER, RAOUL**



Erin Kovatchitch is a national sales manager for Raoul, the Singapore-based upscale fashion company. The company in itself has its share of accolades. Celebrities across the world have worn Raoul clothing, including Kate Middleton on a visit to Singapore, Viola Davis at the 3rd annual Governors Awards, Kourtney Kardashian at an Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards Viewing Party, and Good Morning America's Amy Robach on numerous occasions. The company also won the world branding award in 2014-2015.

However, for Kovatchitch, Raoul is more than upscale priced clothing for special events and celebrities: it's her every day job.

"I got my associate degree in Fashion Buying and Merchandising at Herkimer County Community College," Kovatchitch relates, "then I went to FIT—the Fashion Institute of Technology—in New York for my bachelor's degree in Fashion Buying. I think it was like most students after college – it was hard to find a job. Everyone wants experience in the field."

Kovatchitch finally landed an entry-level job as a buying associate for TJX Companies, which owns a number of stores including T. J. Maxx, Marshalls,

and HomeGoods. "I assisted the buyers in various departments; hand bags, home goods, and clothing. But there's a lot of math in buying. I wasn't sure I wanted to stay there."

So she left TJX Companies and moved into wholesale. "I love

it," Kovatchitch says. "It's ever changing, you get to travel a lot. As a national sales manager, I sell the company's products direct to the stores and manage a team of sales representatives stationed in Dallas and Atlanta.

I'm over the whole process – I get to see it through from the beginning of development to the end when it hits the stores." She gets to interface with customers directly and manages sales across the US, Canada, and South America.

At Herkimer, Kovatchitch best remembers Professor Emeritus Janice Jenny from the Fashion Buying and Merchandizing program. "Mrs. Jenny was my mentor. She was amazing. She took us on a field trip to the city [New York] and we visited so many different companies. She



RAOUL WAS NAMED 'BRAND OF THE YEAR' IN THE 'FASHION – SINGAPORE' CATEGORY AT THE 2014 WORLD BRANDING AWARDS. 68 BRANDS FROM 25 COUNTRIES WERE HONORED AT A GLITTERING AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE PRESTIGIOUS ONE WHITEHALL PLACE IN LONDON.

was also the one who helped me get into FIT. I owe a lot to her."

"It's a good school," she recalls. "When I graduated high school, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I'd always liked fashion, so I got into it at Herkimer." A hometown girl, Herkimer County Community College might have been the obvious choice, but for Kovatchitch it became the springboard for a long-term career in a field she loves.

# Mixing Baseball and Merchandising

**JASON KINNEY '03 ENJOYING SUCCESS WITH KANSAS CITY ROYALS AFFILIATE**

“When I went to Herkimer County Community College,” says Jason Kinney, “I knew what I wanted to do for the first time in my life.” That vision led him to a different city, a different state, and a different profession—working with the Omaha Storm Chasers, a Triple-A affiliate of the MLB World Series Champions Kansas City Royals, the Pacific Coast League baseball team which won two of the last three Triple-A National Championships.

“I’m a small-town guy,” Kinney says. “I was born and raised in Frankfort, New York. After high school, I had no plans to go to college.” He worked at APAC in Utica for a year, then, in July 1999, he had a life-altering encounter.

“Hillary Clinton came to Utica . . . it was probably history-making,” he recalls. “I didn’t get there in time to get into the speech, but I stayed close by, hoping to catch a glimpse of her. When she came out the side door of the nursing home, she started walking straight toward me. I was the only young person she’d seen since she announced her intention to run for senate a few days earlier. She asked me questions that no one had ever asked me before; ‘Why aren’t you going to school? What do you plan on doing with your life?’ We talked for a while, oh, maybe 10 to 15 minutes.” That conversation changed his life. Later, Kinney would go on the campaign trail with her.

The conversation made Kinney think for the first time about what he would do with his life. So Kinney registered to attend Herkimer County Community College for a degree in photography. “Gale Farley was my advisor, my mentor. We had a lot of discussions about what I wanted to do.” His other memories of Herkimer College revolve around the close community of the college. “It was almost like a bigger high school—you had friends, cousins in almost every class. We still used 35 millimeter; digital was just coming in during my senior year. So lots of memories of darkroom stories and the photography club taking trips to New York City.”

After earning his associate degree in photography, Kinney knew he wanted action. On the campaign trail with Hillary Clinton, he gained confidence. His brother Frank went to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln ('92) and invited Kinney for a visit. “They had the program I







wanted—the college was just like HCCC and I fell in love with it; I saw myself in PR and marketing. I welcomed the change, and started over.”

While working on his bachelor’s degree in public relations at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, he and three classmates decided to intern with the Storm Chasers, then known as the Royals. “We wanted to work with a professional team; to learn about the sports industry,” Kinney explains. Kinney would later work as a paid intern for the general manager, and his three friends would go on to work with the San Diego Padres, the Colorado Rockies, and a major event planning firm in Omaha.

From paid intern, Kinney worked his way into director of merchandising for the Storm Chasers. “I got to be creative; to bring new items in throughout the season and new ideas because I was younger,” he explains. “I developed a new customer base with the season ticket holders and saw profits rise. When they closed the famous Rosenblatt Stadium, I got to create products branded with the Rosenblatt final season logo.

Then I got to create the new merchandise store at Werner Park, which opened the following year.”

After five years of merchandising, Kinney was ready for a new challenge. In 2012, he became more involved in corporate sales for the Storm Chasers, and now sells advertising for the ballpark. “Most of the contact is cold calling,” Kinney says. “I listen to the companies’ needs and give them a proposal based on the dollars they have to spend.”

Not only has Kinney worked for nearly 10 years for the Storm Chasers, he also rubs shoulders with the rich and famous. “I’m friends with a lot of country music people—Luke Bryan, Keith Anderson, Blake Shelton, and others. That opens up doors to other opportunities. The team was once owned by Omaha’s own Warren Buffett up until a couple years ago.”

Whether he’s cold calling Fortune 500 or smaller companies for advertising deals or following leads in the sports and celebrity industry, Kinney won’t be forgetting his small beginnings—or his first college in Herkimer, New York.



# 2015 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction



**DURING FALL FEST & ALUMNI WEEKEND, HERKIMER COLLEGE INDUCTED THE THIRD CLASS, INCLUDING FIVE INDIVIDUALS AND ONE TEAM, INTO ITS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME, RECOGNIZING THEIR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE THROUGH INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS.**

The ceremony opened with Men's Soccer Coach Pepe Aragon, a 1991 graduate selected for his contributions as a student-athlete in 1989 and 1990. Aragon was a two-time All-American and Male Athlete of the Year. As a sophomore, he led his team to a Region III championship, the second for the program. "Coming to Herkimer was the best decision of my life," said the former captain. "Little did I know that I'd be surrounded by such coaching legends." What else Aragon didn't know was that his 1990 regional championship would be

the first of 26 consecutive for the program (so far), accumulating 18 himself as head coach since 1998.

Paul J. Henriques and Sarah (Lazarus) Lorence joined Aragon as student-athlete honorees. Henriques was a member of the 1988 and 1989 Men's Nordic Ski Team. He became the College's first ever individual national champion - winning the men's Nordic 10K among 400 other skiers in Waterville, NH. Added to that, Henriques won every meet he competed in, but one, while at Herkimer.





As for Lorence, the South Berlin, NY native competed in the most sports possible in her time as a student-athlete at Herkimer. She participated in cross country, indoor track, track, basketball and lacrosse from 2005 to 2008. In 2007, Lorence captured individual national championships in the 800 and 1500-meter races, then helped the team in 2008 to their first ever team national championship, ending the year with Female Athlete of the Year honors.

Inducted as a contributor, was former technical assistant Charlie LaQuay for his tireless work and dedication to the Herkimer Generals. LaQuay served as intramural director, budget manager, equipment manager, supervisor of open gym, official clock operator and time keeper from

1989 to 2000. LaQuay admitted that, as an adult student, he was fortunate to secure a part-time job in the athletic department. "I started as a 42 year old student," said LaQuay. "I got into the work study program which turned into a technical assistant position. Then I became a full-time employee. This college saved my life!"

Closing out the 2015 class was Paul Wehrum and the 1988 Men's Lacrosse Team. Head men's lacrosse coach for 24 seasons (1980 to 2003), Wehrum guided the program to a 403-62 record which included three undefeated seasons, 21 consecutive Region III championships and eight national championships. His 1988 team won the program's first ever national championship, going back-to-back in 1989 with many members from the '88 squad. "That's one of his strengths (Wehrum), his ability to take an athlete and put him in a position for success," said former Herkimer lacrosse player Jerry Farrell.

Coaching wasn't the only responsibility Wehrum had at Herkimer, however, doubling as a faculty member teaching health and physical education until his retirement in 2006. "The mission of the College was to win championships, not on the field, but in the classroom," said Wehrum. "I was hired to teach. You have no idea what an honor it is when a mom and dad give you their son or daughter to work with, nurture and grow."

In 2005, Herkimer College dedicated its new athletic stadium to Coach Wehrum, naming it Wehrum Stadium. Upon his retirement, Wehrum was named professor emeritus, an honor bestowed by the College's Board of Trustees.

Though Wehrum was previously inducted to the National Lacrosse, Long Island Lacrosse, Upstate New York and SUNY Cortland Hall of Fames, he made Herkimer's a memorable one stating in his final sentence before exiting, "I was born, I was put on this earth to coach and teach at Herkimer College."



## WOMEN'S SOCCER Region III Champions . . . again

Winning the Region III championship in consecutive seasons for the first time, the women's soccer program had plenty to be proud of in 2015. The team boasted a No. 2 national ranking the majority of the season until the week of the national tournament when they captured the top spot, going a perfect 6-0 against nationally-ranked opponents to that point, outscoring them 10 to 0. In return the program collected their fifth regional championship, tallying 16 shutouts in 17 games before traveling to Ocean County College (NJ) for the national championship tournament.

The team came one goal short of playing in the national championship

game, finishing in fourth place after three days of competition. That success resulted in numerous accolades including two All-American selections -- sophomore Teigha Ward (Ilion, NY) and freshman Grace Johnson (Tully, NY) were awarded first and second team mentions respectively from both the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) and NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America).

Coach Jason Palkovic said, "They did everything Coach Brooks-Newton and myself asked of them, proving to be one of the best teams in the country!"



## BOWLING Under New Leadership

The bowling program was under new guidance this past season with Jason Rathbun taking over as head coach. The bowling program didn't miss a beat with several impressive individual accomplishments. Freshman Korena Kinney (Taberg, NY) placed 10th at regionals and ninth at nationals -- bowling a 2,091 in All-Events at Air Port Lanes in February which averaged out to 174.3 per game during the three-day national tournament. Kinney however wasn't the only standout, as Matt Gladstone (Norwich, NY) and Molly McGuire (Solvay, NY) earned All-Conference Team selections. Each placed fourth overall at the conference tournament.

## Runner Impresses at NFL Regional Combine

Former two-sport standout Wendall Williams ran a near recording-breaking 40-yard dash at an NFL Regional Combine in Minneapolis, MN in March 2016. The six-time JUCO track & field national champion posted a hand-timed 4.19 seconds which would've broken All-Pro Chris Johnson's 4.24 he ran in 2008 until an official 4.34 laser time was recorded. Nonetheless, Williams garnered enough attention for a private workout with the New York Jets and Oakland Raiders after multiple NFL scouts witnessed his athletic prowess at Winter Park. Williams was honored as a SUNY Chancellor's Scholar Athlete at Herkimer before transferring to University of the Cumberlands (KY) in 2014.







## CROSS COUNTRY Runner Earns All-American

Graduating a national champion a year ago didn't faze the cross country program in 2015. They achieved success in regional and national competition with freshman Norman Clayton (Bronx, NY) running well in his final two meets. Clayton, who notched three top 10 finishes, posted a 31:06.3 at the Region III Championships in Canandaigua, NY, then beat that time by two minutes and 26 seconds at Nationals, posting a 28:40.3. It helped Clayton to All-Region Team and All-American honors, breaking a streak of 13 years without a male All-American for the cross country program.

## MEN'S SOCCER 26th Consecutive Regional Title

A model for consistency, the Herkimer Generals men's soccer team captured their 26th consecutive Region III Championship in 2015, defeating both SUNY Adirondack and Cayuga 2-0 at Wehrum Stadium for another chance at a national championship. Under the guidance of seven-time national champion Head Coach Pepe Aragon the team remained nationally-ranked all season, receiving nine votes in the third week for a season-best No. 2 nomination. It was the highest the team earned despite an eight game win streak in the span of a month where the Generals outscored their competition 41 to 2 from September to October.

During those 33 days of superb play, the team accumulated six shutouts, finishing with 10 all season which was the most in the nation. It helped them boast the second best defensive unit in the country, yielding only 13 goals and a 0.66 goals against average. "We had a great season with a lot of new faces to the team and the starting line-up," said Aragon. "The guys worked extremely hard to win the Mountain Valley Conference and Region III Championship!"



## MEN'S BASKETBALL 15-Game Win Streak

Retooling for 2015-2016, the men's basketball team brought in nine new players resulting in a new starting lineup. It didn't faze the young team however, as they went undefeated at home (16-0) and against the conference (16-0) during the regular season, including an impressive 15-game win streak. During that time, Head Coach Matt Lee accomplished something he had never done in his 13 seasons of guiding the program, defeating Monroe Community College. His team did so at home in February, defeating the Tribunes 63-60, giving the Generals a win over a team which was ranked #6 in Division II. Lee then guided his team to a regional playoff appearance, getting knocked out in the semifinals. Herkimer earned two All-Region and four All-Conference selections. Patrick Dorrian (Kingston, NY) and Anquan McLean Jr. (Albany, NY) were All-Region members, also doubling as first team All-Conference. Joining them on the All-Conference squad was Daniel Owens (Albany, NY) and Tyquan Scott (Long Beach, NY).

# Pepe Aragon '91: Creating Opportunities for Student-Athletes



For an opportunity to come about, a set of circumstances has to exist for it to be possible. In the world of athletics, more specifically men's soccer, one is hard pressed to find a coach who provides more opportunities for student-athletes than Pepe Aragon.

Having started his intercollegiate soccer career as a Herkimer General himself, Aragon certainly understands how given the right circumstances, and a lot of hard work, an opportunity can quickly turn into success. Under his guidance, the men's soccer program has collected seven national and 18 Region III, and 18 Mountain Valley Conference championships since 1998, establishing itself as one of the elite junior college programs in the country. (In total, the program has 10 national and 27 Region III and Mountain Valley Conference championships.)

Pepe credits his parents for his ability to lead by example. "My dad is from Guatemala where soccer is like a religion. He is one of the best coaches I ever played for, and he allowed me to fall in love with the game at a young age. As for my mom, she's a fierce competitor with an unbelievable work ethic. Combined, my parents brought my family up in an environment where you treat everyone with respect and to be as honest as possible. It challenged us to push each other to be great!"

That family mantra has led to some outstanding accomplishments for Pepe in many areas of his life. As a coach at Herkimer, Aragon has produced seven NJCAA National Players of the Year, 11 Region III Players of the Year, three Region III Male Athletes of the Year and more than 60 All-Americans. In return, many of his athletes have received academic or athletic scholarships to colleges and universities like Syracuse, Connecticut, Ohio State, St. John's, Boston, Coastal Carolina, Cornell, West Virginia, Temple, Binghamton, Albany, Clarkson, Lynn, South Carolina, Charleston, California State, Marist, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Cortland and many more.

"We've done a good job preparing our athletes for the next level, not only on the field, but in every aspect of their lives," said Aragon. "Coaching is no different than parenting. It's how you guide and push them (students) athletically, academically and socially to





**Aragon's team helps him celebrate his 300th win on September 4, 2014.**

prepare them for a successful transition to a four-year institution.”

Expectations are infused right from the start when an athlete sets foot on campus. Aragon's off-season program begins in February culminating in exhibitions with the likes of Syracuse, Hartwick, St. Bonaventure and Le Moyne. From there, a summer workout program consisting of strength training, long distance and sprint conditioning is mandatory, so when the season begins in August his team is ready to compete. If that isn't enough, Aragon also expects his athletes to pull their weight in the classroom once the semester starts, not accepting absences or tardiness through an initiative he calls 'Breakfast Club.'

“If I find out my athletes are late to class or absent (with the exception of illness), they have to show up for 'Breakfast Club' at 6 a.m. the following morning in the athletic building. For 30 to 40 minutes we have them do mop ups, sit ups and burpees. It's something I've done for a long time now, and we do it because we care.”

Beneficiaries of Aragon's tutelage are recent Herkimer College graduates Ben Polk and Korab Sylva. Polk ('15) and Sylva ('13) were Player of the Year honorees in their final years as captains. Both went on to play for Syracuse University, using Aragon's close connections with Ian McIntyre, the Orange's head coach, as a resource.

Both players helped the Orange to their first ever Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Championship and Final Four appearance this past fall (2015), finishing the season 16-5-4, one shy of the school record. Polk scored the game winner against Boston College in the Elite Eight of the College Cup, netting his 12th goal of the season in the 79th minute from a corner kick to defeat the Eagles 1-0 in regulation. It was the last goal Polk scored for Syracuse, leading the team in points (28) and goals in just 23 games played.

As for Sylva, he didn't have the same offensive statistics but helped the senior class accumulate 56 wins, the highest total of any class in school history.

“I am so proud of what those two have done on and off the field at Syracuse,” said Aragon. “Korab graduated in December and Ben was selected in the first round of the Major League Soccer (MLS) Super Draft in January (2016).”

It doesn't stop with Polk and Sylva however, as Aragon recruits endlessly all over the world to help his program be the best that it can be. He feels there is always someone out there chasing him, and because of this, he learns as much as he can to stay ahead of the pack.

“My biggest fear is losing,” stated Aragon. “That's what drives me.”

# Former General Helps U.S. Indoor Lacrosse Team to Bronze Medal



Former men's lacrosse player Donny Moss '07 competed in the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) World Indoor Championship in September in Syracuse, NY - helping the U.S. men's indoor national team to a bronze medal. The Rochester, NY native was selected from a 31-man tryout pool following a three-day training camp in Simsbury, CT after helping the Rochester Rattlers to the Major League Lacrosse (MLL) Championship game in August. Making the team as a defender, Moss played in four games during the championship tournament, compiling one goal and four groundballs, helping his team to their fourth consecutive bronze medal.

Moss began his career at Herkimer College where he was a first team All-American and Region III Defensive Player of the Year and graduated with a degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences: General Studies. He transferred to Division II Adelphi University and graduated in 2009. Moss was then drafted 39th overall by the Long Island Lizards in the MLL Collegiate Draft. He is currently an assistant men's lacrosse coach at Elmira College.



## SWIMMING & DIVING Gaining Momentum

The swimming and diving program had a resurgence this past season. The program placed second (men) and third (women) at regionals, earning Head Coach Vicki Brown 'Women Coach of the Year' honors. Then both teams placed ninth at the national championship tournament at Indian River State College in March. Nicholas Herrlett (Rotterdam, NY) captured Region III/District Northeast Championships and first team honors in one-meter and three-meter diving. The freshman broke a meet record in one-meter at Monroe Community College, then a school record in the three-meter. Joining Herrlett on the All-Region team, as second team members were Nicholas Lanckton, Jensen VanNostrand, Corinne Richer, Cameron Roten and Dean Schrider. The momentum carried over to nationals, where Herrlett captured CSCAA All-American honors in one-meter and three meter diving and an honorable mention in the 50 yard breaststroke.







## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Making it to Regionals

Two years removed from playoff basketball, the women's basketball team, under first year Head Coach P.J. Anadio, made it to the first round of the regional tournament before being knocked out. The program's efforts yielded a 12-12 overall record, going 8-4 at home and 4-8 on the road. A major influence in the turnaround was sophomore Khristajah Jackson. The Philadelphia, PA native earned spots on the All-Conference and All-Region Team – as a first teamer – and was ranked fifth nationally in defensive rebounds (214), 10th in rebounds per game (13.7) and eighth in points per game (20.7). She had a season-high 39 points against Tompkins Cortland and season-high 23 rebounds against Schenectady, totaling 17 double doubles in 23 games played as a General.



Herkimer County Community College has been selected as a contender for the \$1 million dollar Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The 150 eligible institutions are from 35 states and have demonstrated strong outcomes in four areas of student success: student learning, certificate of degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students. Herkimer College, along with Rockland Community College, are the only two SUNY community colleges to make the list.

The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence aims to reward and shine a spotlight on community colleges that deliver exceptional student results, to stimulate replication of successful campus practices and leadership, and to contribute to the development of high-quality measures and benchmarks for assessing community college student outcomes. The \$1 million prize, awarded every two years, has brought a new level of public attention to community colleges, defined new measures of excellence in outcomes for community college students, and uncovered and disseminated practices that help exceptional colleges ensure great outcomes for their students.

Herkimer College has submitted its application, and is awaiting word as to whether Herkimer will be selected as one of the 10 community colleges to advance to the next round of the competition based on exceptional student outcomes and data-use in learning, degree completion, and employment and earnings. Aspen will conduct site visits to the 10 finalist institutions and collect information that is used by a Prize Jury to select the winner and finalists-with-distinction. The 10 finalists will be publicized in fall 2016, and winner and finalists-with-distinction announced in early 2017. To learn more about the Aspen Prize: [www.AspenCCPrize.org](http://www.AspenCCPrize.org).

# Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence



On January 13, 1966, the State University of New York Trustees resolved to sponsor and establish a community college for the County of Herkimer. Approval was given for classes to begin in 1967 with a predicted full-time enrollment of 200 to 225 students. With that resolution, Herkimer County Community College became the 29th community college in the State of New York.

Since then our students and alumni have experienced great achievements -- in the classrooms, on the athletic fields, in co-curricular activities, internships, and in their endeavors after they graduate. More than 20,000

graduates now call Herkimer College their alma mater. Our alumni live and work in all corners of the world as business leaders, educators, health care workers, therapists, counselors, television personalities and producers, scientists, engineers, technicians, accountants, artists, musicians, public servants, investigators, attorneys, entrepreneurs, and more..

Herkimer College has made a significant impact on the economic and social well-being of the local and regional community. Through our work to provide educational excellence and opportunity, the local community benefits from workforce development,

an expanded economy, reduced social costs, higher business revenues, increased individual earnings, more career opportunities, greater availability of public funds, and an eased tax burden.

During the coming year, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary and everyone connected to Herkimer College's past, present and future.

## JOHNSON HALL CLASSROOMS Get a Facelift

Two Johnson Hall classrooms have undergone major transformations to take them from early 1970's facilities to modern, flexible, multi-use spaces.

The new SUNY Regional Center for Quality Assurance features 10 iMacs, 10 iPads, a three-dimensional printer and a plotter. The state of the art multi-purpose classroom supports faculty-led instruction of senior-level courses in quality assurance, engineering, physics and math. The space is designed to facilitate the dynamics of smallgroup learning and can easily be reconfigured for teams of students working collaboratively and seminar-style learning sessions.

The First Source Federal Credit Union Center for Applied Business and Entrepreneurial Studies provides an advanced and interactive learning space for senior level business courses.







## Phaethon Receives Awards

Herkimer College's literary magazine, Phaethon, won second place among eastern division small colleges in the Community College Humanities Association's 2015 Literary Magazine Competition. Three students also won awards from the competition. Zachary Vercz, Mohawk, NY, came in first place in the short stories category for his story, Poppy Seeds and Prince Harry. Shunyu Yao, Herkimer, NY, came in first place in the artwork category for his work, Untitled. Xavier Goins, Lacona, NY, came in third place in the artwork category for his work, Untitled.

Faculty advisors for the Phaethon are Andrew Devitt, Assistant Professor, English; Blake Pitcher, Assistant Professor, Digital Graphics; and Matthew Powers, Instructor, English. Copies of the magazine may be requested by emailing [litmag@herkimer.edu](mailto:litmag@herkimer.edu). A digital edition is available at [www.herkimer.edu/phaethon](http://www.herkimer.edu/phaethon).

## Leadership Campaign Achieves 100% Participation Goal

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The Herkimer County College Foundation recently announced results of its first annual Leadership Campaign, a fundraising initiative to encourage 100 percent participation in the 2015-16 annual campaign of the governing boards of the College and its auxiliaries.

Foundation President Frank Kapusta said, "I'm happy to report that we achieved 100 percent participation in the Leadership Campaign. This shows the tremendous support and faith that the board members have in the College and Foundation, as well as the direction for the future."

The objective of the Leadership Campaign was to obtain 100% participation from members of the four governing

boards – the College Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, Housing Corporation Board and Faculty-Student Association Board. "Being able to show that each and every member of the four leadership boards have made a monetary contribution puts us in a better position for conducting a capital campaign or annual fund drive in the future. The participation of the board members demonstrates the strength, commitment and dedication of the leadership team in supporting the growth and success of Herkimer College."

Kapusta added, "We are thrilled with the success of the campaign and are appreciative of the support!"

**Herkimer** | FOUNDATION  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

# Join Us! Fall Fest & Alumni Weekend



## 50th Anniversary Herkimer FALL FEST & ALUMNI WEEKEND

### Friday, September 30

**Alumni Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony & Reception, 5 p.m., Alumni Hall**

Please join us for the 2016 Alumni Hall of Honor induction ceremony. To commemorate the 50th anniversary, we will also recognize the 24 current Hall of Honor inductees. This event is open to all free of charge. Complimentary hors d'ouevres and a cash bar will be available. [www.herkimer.edu/alumni](http://www.herkimer.edu/alumni)

### Saturday, October 1

**Activities, Presentations, Displays, Games and Entertainment**

There will be something for everyone, including an art show, car show, farmer's market, solar star gazing, campus tours, wagon rides, displays, presentations, book signings and more. Alumni basketball, lacrosse, baseball and softball games will take place. Refreshments will include a Chicken BBQ, concession stand and beer garden. The day will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display at dusk.

For a complete list of activities and events: [www.herkimer.edu/fallfest](http://www.herkimer.edu/fallfest)

### Sunday, October 2

**Cruise with the President**

Join President Cathleen McColgin and her husband Bob McColgin for Sunday brunch on a chartered Erie Canal cruise. With the beautiful fall scenery and the incredible Erie Canal as a backdrop, our charter aboard Lil' Diamond III will be a most memorable way to complete the weekend. The two-hour cruise will start and end at Gems Along the Mohawk, located at 800 Mohawk Street in Herkimer. \$20 per person. Reservations will be required as seating is limited.

**FRIDAY,  
SEP. 30,  
SATURDAY  
OCT. 1,  
SUNDAY,  
OCT. 2**

Visit [www.herkimer.edu/50](http://www.herkimer.edu/50) or email [alumni@herkimer.edu](mailto:alumni@herkimer.edu) to be placed on our mailing list for more information as it becomes available.



# Partners in Education

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Dr. Cathleen McColgin  
& Mr. Robert McColgin  
NYS Correctional Officers  
& Police Benevolent Association  
IBEW Union Local #43  
Mrs. Margaret Hager Hart

# In Memoriam

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

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**Katherine Montano**, 58, of Sauquoit, NY, passed away February 24, 2016 at the Martin Luther Home in Clinton, NY after a seven-year battle with cancer. Katherine served for 34 years as the coordinator of public relations at Herkimer County Community College. She grew up in New York Mills and attended St. Mary's and New York Mills High School. She is survived by her husband Donald and sons Kevin '14, Jordan and Jonathan. Katherine was a past president and one of the founding members of the Mohawk Valley Mothers of Multiples Club and was active in the Mohawk Valley Ad Club.

## Class of 1969

**Paul Thomas Wood**, 67, of Utica, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, July 14, 2015. Mr. Wood was a graduate of West Winfield Central School, Herkimer County Community College and attended Stony Brook.

## Class of 1972

**Louis H. Schmidt**, 72, formerly of the Town of Salisbury and more recently Deltona, Florida, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, September 21, 2015. Mr. Schmidt was a graduate of Dolgeville High School as well as a graduate of Herkimer County Community College and Syracuse University. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving in the US Army from 1962-1968. He was the former owner and operator of Dr. Schmidt's Incredible Car Cures in Salisbury and taught Automotive Technology at Herkimer County Community College for several years. He later relocated to Longwood, FL and began operating Exclusive Imports. After selling that business he built a garage in Deltona, FL operating Central Florida Trikes, building custom motorcycle trikes and was a member of the Brothers of the Third Wheel.

## Class of 1973

**Gregory J. Brockway Sr.**, 63, of Sylvan Beach passed away on Wednesday, July 15, 2015. Mr. Brockway was a graduate of Rome Catholic High School and Herkimer County Community College. He retired from Owl Wire in Canastota and previously worked at Larabee Wire and Montgomery Wards. He enjoyed fishing, canoeing, hiking and attending car races with his family and friends.

## Class of 1974

**Kenneth P. Young**, 63, of North Syracuse, formerly of Clinton, NY, passed away on Saturday, March 19, 2016 with his loved ones by his side. He was born on January, 1953 in Utica, NY. He attended Poland Central School and transferred his senior year graduating from West Canada Valley. He worked as a carpenter for over 36 years. He was an avid whitewater kayaker and loved the challenge of navigating rapids in the northeast with his fellow boaters.

## Class of 1977

**Ann Waldron Burton**, 84, of Frankfort, NY, passed away February 5, 2016 surrounded by her family. She was born on March 11, 1931, attended Frankfort school and was

united in marriage with Robert F. Burton in July 1949. Ann was a travel agent at Upstate Travel in Utica and a librarian at the Frankfort Public Library. She also was a volunteer at Our Lady of Queen Apostles Church in Frankfort.

## Class of 1977

**Thomas Edward Wood**, 67, of West Canada Creek Village in Poland, NY, passed away on November 7, 2015 at his residence with his loving family at his side. After graduating from Poland Central School, in 1966, Mr. Wood enlisted in the US Navy. He served for four years during the Vietnam era and was honorably discharged in 1972 at the rank of Electrician's Mate 3rd Class. After his military service, he graduated from Herkimer County Community College. He retired in 2006 from Owens-Illinois Glass Container Division.

## Class of 1978

**Anthony J. Costanzo**, 68, of Dolgeville and most recently Whitesboro, passed away on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at his home with his loving wife and family by his side. He worked at MDS in Herkimer for 17 years and then became an insurance agent working for Prudential until 2004 and most recently went to work with the Costanza Agency in Frankfort.

**Betty A. Paul**, 57, of Oriskany Falls, passed away Monday, July 27, 2015 at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Utica. She was a graduate of Madison High School and Herkimer County Community College, and was employed with Covidien in Oriskany Falls for 25 years.

## Class of 1982

**Donna Stradling Bardsley**, 57, of West Eaton, NY, passed away February 5, 2016 at Crouse Community Center in Morrisville. She was born on February 13, 1958 in DeRuyter, NY and was a graduate of Otselic Valley Central School. She worked as a medical assistant in the Keever Family Practice in Oriskany Falls and Cazenovia. Donna's children and her extended family were the light of her life. She was a member of the Georgetown Baptist Church.

## Class of 1983

**Donald Edward Ortlieb**, 55, of Binghamton, NY formerly of Dolgeville, NY, passed away unexpectedly on February 20, 2016 at Binghamton General Hospital. He was born on August 24, 1960 in Little Falls, NY to Edward and Sandra (Darling) Ortlieb. He graduated from Dolgeville High School with the Class of 1980. Don spent his career at the Boys and Girls Club of Binghamton, where he volunteered until he acquired a full-time position as a mentor and counselor. He played drums, enjoyed listening to music, watching old classical movies, traveling and spending time with his family.

## Class of 1989

**Brian C. Holtz II**, 48, of Jamesville, NY, passed away February 23, 2016. He was born in Rome, NY and was a graduate of RFA. Brian played lacrosse at Herkimer



# alumni updates

alumni@herkimer.edu

and Salisbury University. He was Vice President of Lab Operations for Aspen Dental. He was a loving husband and father, an avid hunter and golfer, member of the Elks Lodge, Pompey Rod and Gun Club and Drumlins Golf Club.

## Class of 1992

**Martin Paul "Skip" Skandera**, age 63 of Herkimer, NY, passed away January 15, 2016 at Valley Health Services, Inc. with his loving wife at his side. He was born February 3, 1952 in Herkimer to Martin and Victoria Unczer Skandera and was united in marriage on May 13, 1995 to Claudia Anne Brown. For 18 years he was employed at Remington Arms as a machinist. He was a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 20 year member of Herkimer Elks Lodge #1439 where he served as Exalted Ruler, was All American Leading Knight and currently a trustee on the Board of Directors. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, was an avid golfer, found relaxation in woodworking and loved the outdoor time at his camp on Piseco Lake.

## Class of 1997

**Gary A. Richards**, 62, of Dolgeville, NY, passed away February 27, 2016 at Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, NY. He was born on April 8, 1953, in Little Falls, NY to Veronica Richards and the late Howard Richards Sr. Gary attended Dolgeville Central Schools and served three years in the United State Navy before being honorably discharged in December 1975. Gary worked for Daniel Green's Shoe Company, was a long time employee for Wright's Mobile and most recently, worked as a landscaper for a private business. He was a member of Inghams Mills Baptist Church and the Dolgeville Methodist Church.

## Class of 2000

**Celeste A. Haggerty-Aney**, 42, of Mohawk, NY, passed away February 27, 2016 at Faxon-St. Luke's Healthcare with her loved ones by her side. She was born in New Hartford, NY on October 4, 1973 to James and Rosaria (Perritano) Haggerty. She attended Utica and later Mohawk schools. She was employed by OHM BOCES, special education for 12 years. She was a member and past president of American Legion Utica Post 229 Auxillary, was an avid camper and enjoyed Gilbert Lake with her kids and college friends.

## Class of 2010

**Michael Richard Malinowski**, 39, a lifelong resident of Herkimer, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, August 10, 2015 from natural causes. Mr. Malinowski was a graduate of Herkimer High School and Herkimer County Community College. He married his high school sweetheart, Tiffany Warney on September 22, 2001 in Herkimer. He was employed at All Events in Little Falls. He loved sports, and was a coach for his children's baseball, football and basketball teams.

**Mary Bartron** '72 (Data Processing) was featured in the 5th Edition of Worldwide Branding ProFiles for excellence in Technology. Shortly after graduating, Bartron relocated to Morgantown, WV. She retired in November 2013 after 41 years of working in various positions including instructor at a private junior college, technical specialist for an independent environmental contractor for the Department of Energy, database administrator at West Virginia University and information systems specialist in a research unit at West Virginia University Health Sciences Center.

**Karen Cramer** '78 (Travel and Tourism) had a long career at US Airways, now American Airlines. She received a B.S. in Health Information Management from Florida International University and has begun working on her MBA.

**Debra Brigham** '85 (Business: Accounting) has been employed at MetLife as a virtual associate since 2004. In August she was promoted to technology liaison. She supervises the Consultant Incentive Program and oversees the program operating system to ensure accurate compensation processing.

**Galadriel Fitzgerald** '07 (Business: Human Resource Management) is employed with MetLife. She was a unit leader covering 11 direct reports and managing 90+ customers and was recently promoted to a disability consultant where she will work on customer retention, customer contact and plan consulting/recommendations. She is also pursuing a degree in Computer Science.

**Amanda Nachampassack-Maloney** '11 (Human Services) has written two young adult novels, *Asha in Time* and *Autumnal Dancer*. They are available for sale by Amazon. She has also written two girl-centric and empowering children's books, *When We Named You Baby Girl* and *I don't want to be a Princess*.

**Tierney Coren** '15 (Communications Arts: New Media) has contributed to the development of systems adopted by the newly founded Node Foundation. He creates and maintains the content on all platforms where Node.js is represented and writes weekly updates. He has written articles for companies and the retired official io.js Twitter account and is a member of the Node.js Website Working Group. <https://nodejs.org>.

**We want to keep in touch!** Please let us know about your life celebrations, promotions, retirements and relocations. Please let us know of address changes, so we can stay connected.  
**Send us an email at [alumni@herkimer.edu](mailto:alumni@herkimer.edu)**



# Herkimer

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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Herkimer College faculty were recently recognized at an Employee Recognition Reception for promotions in rank and tenure, effective September 1, 2016. Assistant Professor of English Eileen Hart and Assistant Professor of Science Dr. Nicole McDaniels were awarded tenure. The following faculty were promoted from associate professor to professor: Lisa Elwood-Farber (English), George Smith (Science), Jane Verri (Psychology) and MaryAnn Wrinn (Art). Monica Hack-Polkosnik was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of Criminal Justice. Pictured from left: Board of Trustees Chairwoman Isabella Crandall, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for Humanities and Social Science, Dr. Robin Voetterl-Riecker, Wrinn, Elwood-Farber, Verri, McDaniels, Hart, Smith and College President Cathleen McColgin.

## Coming Events | [www.herkimer.edu/events](http://www.herkimer.edu/events)

### Commencement

Friday, May 20, 5:00 pm

[www.herkimer.edu/commencement](http://www.herkimer.edu/commencement)

### 24th Annual Generals Open Golf Tournament

Monday, June 13, Stonebridge Golf & Country Club

[www.herkimer.edu/golf](http://www.herkimer.edu/golf)

### Fall Fest & Alumni Weekend

Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2

[www.herkimer.edu/fallfest](http://www.herkimer.edu/fallfest)

### Alumni Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony & Reception

Friday, September 30, 5 pm

[www.herkimer.edu/alumni](http://www.herkimer.edu/alumni)

### Robert H. Wood Great Artist Series Gryphon Trio

Friday, October 28, 7 pm

[www.herkimer.edu/greatartists](http://www.herkimer.edu/greatartists)

### 40th Anniversary Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair

November 12 & 13

[www.herkimer.edu/ac](http://www.herkimer.edu/ac)