

Alumni News

WINTER 2005/2006



Bassett to Experience Ultimate Adventure as he Circumnavigates the Globe

Professional photographer Sam Bassett ('98) will realize his dream in the flight of a lifetime, when he and longtime mentor John Gremer circumnavigate the globe in May 2006. They will travel in a twin-engine aircraft with extensive photography and film making equipment. Bassett said "the purpose of the trip is to shoot a variety of images depicting the people we encounter in their native surroundings. It's my hope that the people we meet will bring me under their wings so I can see how they live." Bassett plans to produce a documentary film about the trip, publish a book of photographs and create a traveling photography exhibit.

The title of the flight and corresponding projects is **Five Nine Yankee**, which is the airplane's

abbreviated phonetic registration number. The flight will span three continents, beginning in Miami with stops in New York, Iceland, Spain, Egypt, Iran, India, Japan and many other areas around the world. The men will travel over 30,000 miles in three months. "I'm incredibly excited about the journey; being able to combine my love and gift for aviation with my photography skills," Bassett said.

A 1998 graduate of HCCC with a degree in general studies and an interest in radio-TV broadcasting, Bassett played lacrosse for HCCC's legendary coach Paul Wehrum. He captained the team in 1998, was named 1st team All-American as a midfielder and led the Generals to the Region III championship and a second place finish in the NJCAA nationals. Bassett recently

returned to HCCC for the dedication of Wehrum Stadium. "I just had to stop by and shake his hand," Bassett said. "That's quite an honor for him, and an impressive facility."

"Sam is a wonderful young man," Coach Wehrum said. "He is one of the finest leaders and athletes I've ever coached. We'll be lifelong friends—we have a wonderful relationship." Bassett traveled to Australia with Wehrum the summer after high school graduation, as a member of the People-to-People Sports All-Star Team. "He was the youngest player to ever travel with us, and was very mature for his age," Wehrum said. Bassett said his experience that summer finalized his decision to enroll at HCCC.

cont. p. 2



Ready for flight—Professional photographer Sam Bassett ('98), right, poses with his lifelong mentor, licensed pilot John Gremer. They will set flight around the world in this twin engine aircraft in May 2006. Bassett is also a licensed pilot.

—photo by Sam Bassett



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"Seeing how everyone viewed Coach Wehrum, and how he treated the players, solidified my loyalty to him," Bassett said. He added that he really looked up to Wehrum during his years at Herkimer. "He's a great motivator, and was a friend to me when I was very impressionable. He was a great facilitator for me getting on with my life." Following graduation from HCCC, Bassett transferred to Syracuse University where he captained the lacrosse team and led the Orange to a Division I national championship.

"Without Herkimer, I never would have made it to Syracuse," Bassett said. "I knew of Herkimer's success with Coach Wehrum and I wanted to build my skills and transfer to a Division I school I could be proud of." He earned his bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship and emerging enterprises from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management.

Following graduation, Bassett turned down an offer to play professional lacrosse and instead moved to Manhattan, in search of a career that would equal his passion for the game. Bassett found his enthusiasm in photography. He maintains a studio in Manhattan and enjoys a very successful career as a self-taught portrait photographer, with a variety of shoots for magazines and book covers, as well as his own collection. His work has been seen in mainstream publications

including **Maxim, Town and Country, Marie Claire and Penguin Books.**

Bassett's ambition of flying around the world unites his passion for photography with his lifelong love for aviation. Growing up as an only child in the small town of Clinton, New Jersey, Bassett said "I wasn't really happy with where I lived." That all changed with one bike ride at the age of 11, when he rode several miles from home to discover a small private airport. He was fascinated with the private airplanes parked in the yard. As he walked around the planes, an older gentleman approached him. His name was John Gremer.



Sam Bassett (self-portrait)

always treated me as an equal, even when I was just a kid."

Gremer is a retired American Airlines international captain, licensed as an operator and flight instructor. Bassett began flying at age 11, long before he had his driver's license. At the age of 14, he and Gremer flew relief missions in southern Florida, following the devastation of Hurricane Andrew.

Five Nine Yankee will be a highlight of their relationship. Bassett said "I wanted to do something to give back to my mentor, John Gremer. Now that he's retired and I've grown into adulthood, the tables are turned," Bassett said. "I can repay the kindness he extended to me as a child."

There are many preparations that need to be accounted for before flying such a long journey, such as the clearance needed to land in different countries. "I came up with the concept about three years ago," Bassett said. "The majority of the preparations have involved coming up with the film concept, getting a publisher for the book, and the fundraising needed to make it all happen. John is focusing on preparing the plane and flying instruments. This is a grand scale trip, and it's going to be a great achievement," he added.

For more information on Sam Bassett, his photography and flight, visit: www.sambassett.com.



Sam Bassett (self-portrait)

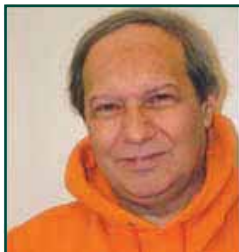
The two carried on a conversation and found each other very interesting. Bassett then asked Gremer to teach him to fly. After some consideration, Gremer offered to teach Bassett to fly in exchange for working the large cornfields behind his home.

"Although we have a 40-year age difference, we've become best friends since that first meeting," Bassett said. "He's an interesting character, and

Alumni Spotlight: Bob Martucci ('69)

A member of the first graduating class at Herkimer County Community College, Bob Martucci has returned to do it all over again. He earned an A.A.S. degree in accounting in 1969, and a B.S. in business administration

from Siena College. Martucci was employed as a supervisor in accounts payable in Utica's City Hall for 11 years,



Bob Martucci

then joined the Utica Police Department, retiring as a technical sergeant in January, 2005. He then decided to expand on his role in law enforcement by enrolling in HCCC's paralegal program.

"It's very nice to be back, but very different from my first go-around," Martucci said. Martucci originally attended classes at an Ilion factory building, before the Herkimer campus was constructed.

As a non-traditional, returning student, Martucci said the younger students make him feel welcome. He added that his career experience has helped him as well. "As a police officer, I dealt with a lot of unusual situations, and that has helped me adjust to college again. Working in law enforcement opened my eyes to the real world. I feel it was a major achievement in my life," he added.

Assistant Professor Marcia Williams said "Bob is a valuable student in my law classes because he brings a wealth of life experience to the classroom. The students gain enormously from this opportunity."

In addition to attending classes on campus, Martucci is also taking courses online through HCCC's Internet Academy. "I prefer the on-campus classes. They provide more of an opportunity for interacting with the professors," he said.

In addition to his HCCC classes, Martucci is active in the community as a Little League Coach and tutor for the Utica City Schools.

Alumni Association Plans Cruise to Western Caribbean for 2006

Sail aboard the "Crown Princess" Tuesday, September 12 through Thursday, September 21, 2006 on a nine-night cruise of the Western Caribbean with fellow HCCC alumni on Princess Cruises.

The itinerary is as follows:

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Tues. 9/12	New York City		5 pm
Wed. 9/13	Day at Sea		
Thurs. 9/14	Day at Sea		
Fri. 9/15	Grand Turk	7am	2pm
Sat. 9/16	Ocho Rios	10am	5pm
Sun. 9/17	Grand Cayman	7am	3pm
Mon. 9/18	Day at Sea		
Tues. 9/19	Port Canaveral	7am	1pm
Wed. 9/20	Day at Sea		
Thurs. 9/21	New York City	7:15am	



Inside staterooms from \$1072.73 per person
Oceanview staterooms from \$1192.73 per person
Balcony staterooms from \$1472.73 per person
Mini Suite staterooms from \$1672.73 per person

All rates are per person and based on double occupancy. A deposit of \$450 per

person will secure your stateroom. A round-trip bus to New York City from Utica will be available for 25 passengers.

For more information/reservations contact The Cruise Wizards, 214 Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, NY 13492, (315) 768-1700 or toll free 1-866-722-SHIP. Visit them online at www.thecruisewizards.com.

Alumni Association President/Board

WANTED:

Interested, energetic HCCC alumni to serve on our Board of Directors.

Help move our organization forward! Call 866-0300, Ext. 8259 for more information, or visit the new alumni website at www.herkimer.edu/alumni

President: Laurie Duguay Jones '87

Directors: Timothy Dunn '01
Cynthia Gabriel '87
Jean Garrow '88
Sharon Howell '79
Harold Hutton '73
Sevim Morawski '91
Cosimo Tangorra '90
Regy Thorpe '92

www.herkimer.edu/alumni

CLASS NOTES

Class of 1969

Rosemary Scaduto D'Agostino, Sound Beach, NY recently retired on July 1, 2005 after 30 years of teaching in the Middle Country School District on Long Island.

Class of 1976

Thomas Lester, Ilion, NY earned a B.S. in computer science from Utica College and has been employed for the past eight years as a computer project leader with The Bank of New York in Oriskany. He and his wife have three sons.

Class of 1979

Thomas P. Tiernan, Deferiet, NY married **Margaret Mills ('80)** on June 21, 1988. The couple has two children, Travis and Amy. Thomas is employed by Blue Cross Insurance, and previously worked for Prudential Insurance for 17 years.

Jay (James) Walsh, Kirtland, OH and his wife Cathy have been married 11 years and have three children, ages 5, 7 and 9. Walsh, a former HCCC and Syracuse University track star, still thinks back to the days when he ran a 4:10 mile.

Class of 1984

David E. Ploutz, Rock Hill, SC has been employed by Boston Bearings since 2002.

Class of 1985

Andy Frank, Utica, NY earned a B.S. from SUC at Plattsburgh in 1989, and is employed by Whitesboro Central Schools. He has been involved in volunteer fire service for 23 years. Frank is attending SUNYIT part-time. He invites friends to email him at lgmixsub@adelphia.net.

Class of 1987

Daniel A. Ploutz, Suffolk, VA has been a manager at Newport News Ship Building since 1989.

Class of 1988

Linda Miller Montgomery, Little Falls, NY recently started a home-based craft business, "Kraftee Ladies," with a friend. Linda and her husband, Paul, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on December 1, 2004.

Cynthia Wetmore Trudeau,

Ticonderoga, NY has been married for 15 years and the couple has two children, a son, 13 and daughter, 14. Trudeau is a quality service coordinator/risk manager at Hudson Headwaters Health Network. She has worked in healthcare for seven years and is a certified risk manager.

Class of 1990

Donald M. Dutcher, Deerfield, NY is the new president of the Mountain Valley Conference Athletic Directors. Dutcher is Director of Athletics at Herkimer County Community College.

Class of 1991

Michael Schultz, Newport, NY was recently appointed Associate Director for Information Technology at the Herkimer Area Resource Center, Herkimer, NY.



Before joining HARC, he was manager of IT systems and services at AmeriCU Credit Union in Rome, NY. Schultz is also a part-time instructor at SUNYIT. He and his wife, Shawn, have three children.

Jodi Bravo West, Marcy, NY had a son, Caiden Montgomery West, on June 22, 2005.

Class of 1992

Donald Mosher, Hilton, NY and **Danielle O'Brien Mosher ('92)** had a son, Jason Thomas, on April 19, 2005.

He was welcomed home by his big brother, Justin, age 4.

Class of 1993

Allen Stern, Atlanta, GA received his M.B.A. from Georgia State University in May 2005. Stern is lead analyst for Georgia-Pacific Corporation. He'd like to hear from classmates via email: allen074@yahoo.com.

Class of 1995

Daniela Giacomelli, Baldwinsville, NY and her husband, **Chris VanCour ('94)**, welcomed their son, Gianluca VanCour, on June 4, 2005.

Lorel Oeser Rathbun, Ilion, NY earned a B.A. in psychology from Utica College in 1997. She has been employed as a mental health therapist for Herkimer County since 2002. She welcomed a grandson, Justin E. Luther, on October 5, 2000 and married Dean Rathbun in October 2002.

Class of 1996

Jacqueline Moreau Giruzzi, Ilion, NY earned a B.A. in psychology from Utica College in 1998. She gave birth to her second son, Cameron John, on September 6, 1999 and most recently had her second daughter on July 4, 2005.

Becky Morin Watson, Hoosick Falls, NY got married on September 27, 2003, and the couple purchased a home in Hoosick Falls in September 2004. She is employed as a personal assistant for the owner of Luxbrush Painting in Manchester Center, VT.

Class of 1997

Georgeann Rogers Caldwell, Ocala, FL married Orville Robert Guild on November 9, 2004 at Smokey Mountains, Gathinburg, TN. The couple cruised to the Cayman Islands and Mexico. Caldwell is employed as an LPN in Florida, and is semi-retired.

Jamie Robinson Conway, New London, CT got married on May 29, 2005 in Lake George, NY and the couple honeymooned in Costa Rica.

Bethany Dexter Cristman, Little Falls, NY earned a bachelor's degree in English from Utica College and a master of science in education from The College of St. Rose. She is certified to teach grades 5-6 English, 7-12 English, and 7-12 special education.

Class of 1999

Antonette DeRocco Balcom, Colorado Springs, CO is continuing her education at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, with a double major in chemistry and biology. She married David Balcom on June 5, 2004.

Antonio (Tony) Quinones, Rochester, NY got married in July 2002. He holds a B.S. from SUC at Buffalo ('01) and an M.S. in business management from Roberts Wesleyan College ('04). Quinones is currently employed by State Farm Insurance in Rochester.

Class of 2000

Kathleen Wollaber Brown, Mohawk, NY is employed by the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) in Herkimer.

Class of 2003

Bryan Benway, Jay, NY has been hired as the game announcer for the Harlem Ambassadors tour. The Ambassadors, similar to the Globetrotters but not affiliated, tour throughout the country and internationally from September through April.

Benway, who won four best male talent awards while at HCCC and SUC at Plattsburgh, was most recently employed as a play-by-play announcer and sideline reporter for Foxy Gagnon's North Country Cable Network.

Erica Price, Bronx, NY earned a B.A. in sociology from SUNYIT. She is employed as a police officer with NYPD.

Class of 2004

Stephen Vadney, Albany, NY welcomed a daughter born January 6, 2005.

In Memoriam

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

Dennis Wisnoski ('74), Endwell, NY died June 12, 2005 following a brief battle with cancer. A graduate of the Radio-TV Broadcasting program, Dennis was formerly employed by HCCC. He had a lifelong passion for trains and lived for a number of years in Lake Placid, NY working for the Adirondack Scenic Railroad. Most recently, he was employed by PAR in New Hartford, NY as a technical computer software contractor. For those who desire, contributions in Dennis' memory may be made to The Adirondack Railway Preservation Society, PO Box 84, Thendara, NY 13472. Please specify that your gift is "in memory of Dennis Wisnoski for Lake Placid."

Ronald Berger ('94), New Rochelle, NY died August 16, 2005 at Mercy Hospital, Buffalo, NY of cardiovascular disease. He graduated from HCCC with a degree in humanities.

Keep up to date on Alumni news and events!

- *Join the Alumni Association
- *Update your Contact Information
- *Read the Alumni Newsletter
- *Join our E-mail list

Graduate Survey Winners Announced

Herkimer County Community College has announced the winners of the 2004 Graduate Follow-Up Survey drawing.

Brian R. Williams, Gilbertsville, NY and Anthony F. DeCola, Herkimer, NY were randomly selected from all 2004 graduates who completed this survey, and were each awarded an MP3 player.

The Graduate Follow-Up Survey is jointly administered by the HCCC Counseling Office and the Office of Institutional Research. This survey is distributed to HCCC alumni within one year of their graduation to obtain valuable information regarding their career placement or transfer experience.

The Class of 2004 had a fantastic response with 70% of their graduates completing the short survey. Graduates of the Class of 2005 should receive their survey this spring, and will be entered in the next prize drawing.

Join the Business Wall

The HCCC Alumni Association would like to gather business cards from all of our alums. The cards will be displayed in Alumni Hall to demonstrate a range of career options to our students and other visitors to campus.

Simply send your business card to the Alumni Office along with your graduation year on the back. When you're in the area, stop by and visit the Business Wall.

Would You Like to Host a Regional Alumni Event?

HCCC's Alumni Association is looking for alums interested in hosting an Alumni Event in their area. You can plan the gathering at your home or at a local restaurant.

The Alumni Association will coordinate with the host and will send out invitations to fellow grads from your area. These events are a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and network with other local Herkimer alums.

Contact the Alumni Association at 315-866-0300, ext. 8259 or email casaleva@herkimer.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Alumnus of the Year Nominations

The HCCC Alumni Association is developing a list of nominees for the Association's annual Alumnus of the Year Award, to be presented at commencement on May 19, 2006.

The Association Board is asking for nominations of alumni whose professional, civic or personal accomplishments best reflect the commitment to excellence and community service that define the community college. Please provide a brief but comprehensive overview of the nominee's accomplishments.

Submit your completed nomination form by March 5, 2006 to: HCCC Alumni Office, c/o Maureen Schell, 100 Reservoir Road, Herkimer, NY 13350.

Nominee _____ Class/Curriculum _____

Address _____ Email _____

Phone _____

Please provide information on nominee's higher education, professional, civic and personal accomplishments (attach sheet).

Name of person submitting nomination: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Previous Recipients: Mary E. House, Jim Roller, Daniel Burling, Melissa Bennett, William Evan, Donald Kane, Jr., Theodore Adams, K. Bruce Ward, Honorable David Wickersham, Martin Babinec, Andrew Kaiser, Mark Cochi and Sean P. O'Brien.



Credit Card Machine Donated—Jim Richards ('74) recently donated a credit card machine to the Herkimer County College Foundation and HCCC Alumni Association. This allows the Foundation to accept credit card donations. Alumni may also make pledges to support the Foundation that can be automatically charged monthly, quarterly or annually. Credit cards accepted are Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and Diners Club.

Richards is pictured with HCCC Dean of Institutional Advancement John D. Bullis ('73) and Director of Development Vincent Casale.

Annual Foundation Raffle

2006 FLSTN Softail Deluxe or \$12,500 Cash

Tickets: \$10 Only 5,000 Tickets Sold

Drawing: July 3, 2006 at 9pm

Proceeds benefit the works of the Herkimer County College Foundation, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/email: _____

Mail form and fee to: HCC Foundation, Inc., 100 Reservoir Road, Herkimer, NY 13350

(315) 866-0300, ext. 8459

Email: schellmk@herkimer.edu

Reminder

Check the expiration date on your HCCC Alumni Association Membership Card. If it has expired, remember to send your dues to the HCCC Alumni Office.

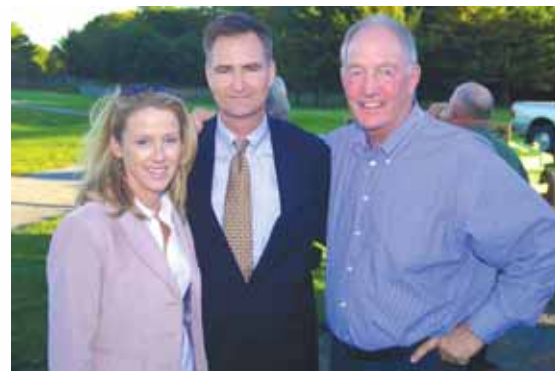
The Association bills on a fiscal year from September 1-August 31. Membership fees are \$25/year for Annual Member, \$250 one-time fee for Lifetime Member.

Join the Alumni Association online: www.herkimer.edu/alumni.

Wehrum Stadium Dedication October 1, 2005



Brick Garden—Coach Paul Wehrum poses by the brick garden created through the Champions Campaign to establish Wehrum Stadium.



Alumni Participate in Dedication—Among those speaking at the October 1st dedication of Wehrum Stadium were (top left) Dr. Frederick Douglas Opie ('87), James Barnes ('98) (bottom left) and Champions Campaign Chairman Andrew Kaiser, ('83), pictured above with his wife, Lauren, and Coach Paul Wehrum.

Honoring Coach Wehrum—Gathered with Coach Wehrum at the dedication ceremony (below) were friends Jim Dooling, Mark McNerney, Todd Edinger ('95), Jeff Roos ('92), John Niven and Dan Dennett.



Wehrum Stadium—An archway marks the entrance to Wehrum Stadium (left). At right, fans gather in the new stadium for a men's NJCAA soccer game, following fireworks and the stadium dedication ceremony.



National Champions—
HCCC's Men's Soccer Team, under Coach Pepe Aragon, celebrates winning the NJCAA national tournament with a 2-0 win over Richland College, Texas.

The men's and women's tournaments were hosted by Herkimer at Wehrum Stadium on November 12 & 13, 2005. This is the sixth national championship captured by the Generals.



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www.herkimer.edu/alumni

12/05

ALUMNI UPDATE

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 so we can keep in touch. Thank you.

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

Name _____ Class of ' _____
Last First Maiden

Address _____
Street City State Zip

County _____ Phone _____ Date of Birth _____
Area Code

email _____

New job, advanced degree, marriage, births, etc. _____

ALUMNI DUES

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

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Reservoir Road
Herkimer, NY 13350

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED