



Herkimer
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Connections

FALL 2020



Herkimer
Responds

A Magazine for the Alumni & Friends of Herkimer College



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This issue of Connections will be the last fall issue. The magazine will be published annually in the winter, and a new e-newsletter will be sent out quarterly. This will allow you to receive news and information about upcoming events in a timely manner. We encourage you to share your email with us so you don't miss out.

Visit www.herkimer.edu/alumni-news or email alumni@herkimer.edu to subscribe.

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

There are many ways you can support Herkimer College.

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

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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE
President

DR. CATHLEEN C. MCCOLGIN



Dear Alumni and Friends,

In preparation for writing this message, I reviewed our last issue and realized you received it just as the pandemic was creating great challenges for our campus community, and I imagine for most of you as well. I hope this issue finds you well and adapting to any new situations as a result of the pandemic.

Last March, in an effort to protect our entire campus community from a virus we knew little about, our students were told not to return to campus after spring break (with some exceptions), and most of our employees were sent home to work remotely. In 17 days, our academic team and faculty transitioned 419 on-campus classes to alternative modes of delivery, and our staff created remote student services and support programs such as our laptop loaner program. It was a daunting task for all involved, but I am proud of the way Herkimer College responded swiftly and with great compassion for our students and one another.

Throughout the summer months, we spent countless hours planning for our campus restart. Every decision made was guided by our commitment to offering an excellent education to each and every student, while providing for the health and well-being of everyone in our campus community. As of the writing of this message, we have a solid, prudent plan in place, and it is my hope and expectation that our students will be successful this fall, in part due to the care and compassion of our Herkimer College family.

It has been my honor to lead this institution through one of the most challenging times, and I am grateful for everyone's patience, understanding and support throughout these last six months.

Sincerely,

Cathleen C. McColgin, Ph.D.
 President

Update on Middle States Reaccreditation

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Herkimer County Community College had conducted a year-long self-study as part of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (msche.org) reaccreditation process. Our peer review evaluation team visit was to take place in April 2020. Due to the pandemic, the team visit was postponed and is now scheduled to take place virtually October 18-21, 2020.

Our self-study steering committee and work groups have worked diligently to research and write a self-study report. I remain optimistic about the outcome of our self-study and thank everyone involved for their time and effort throughout the reaccreditation process.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE Foundation Director

ROBERT FOWLER



Dear Alumni and Friends,

My family moved from Bloomington, Minnesota, to Orlando, Florida, when I was 13 years old. Having Disney World in our backyard was a definite plus! As I've become somewhat accustomed to working from home, I was thinking back to the Space Mountain roller coaster. Remember how at the end of the ride you went through what they called "The World of Tomorrow"? In some ways, this must have been what Walt was thinking of!

The pandemic, for me, has put the idea of the "World of Tomorrow" in a different light. But, we adjust, and we move on. I'm happy to say the Foundation has been able to do that, and we've achieved some meaningful successes as we've navigated our way through all of this.

One of the unfortunate results of the times we're in today has been the impact on our students. I thought it was bad when we left Minnesota and my life was "turned upside down." That's nothing compared to what our students have faced. Suddenly access to so many things that are essential for a student to be successful, just seemed to disappear. Thankfully the Foundation, with the assistance and support of the College, established a student emergency relief fund called the HCCF Assists fund.

With the support of many of you, as well as our loyal Generals Open golf tournament supporters, we were able to raise \$25,000 for the fund. Along with an anonymous donor to SUNY who pledged a dollar-for-dollar match on all monies raised by the end of June 2020, the HCCF Assists fund now has just over \$50,000 to help Herkimer College students with various needs due to the COVID crisis.

While we may have moved into the "World of Tomorrow" in a manner not any of us, or Walt Disney for that matter, could have envisioned, things will get better. Tomorrow will be brighter. I assure you that the Foundation will continue to work toward providing assistance to Herkimer College and its students, and now more than ever, I sincerely thank all of you for your tremendous kindness and support.

Sincerely,

Rob Fowler, Executive Director
 Herkimer County College Foundation



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ETHEL



with special guest artist, Robert Mirabal

PHOTO: TIM BLACK



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

Friday, March 26, 2021 | 7:00 PM

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



HERKIMER COLLEGE CONTENDS WITH

COVID-19

BY KIRA MADDOX

JUST BEFORE SPRING BREAK 2020, HERKIMER COLLEGE, ALONG WITH THE WORLD AT LARGE, WAS FACED WITH A GLOBAL CATASTROPHE: AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE THAT QUICKLY BECAME A GLOBAL PANDEMIC.

THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, A NEW VIRUS WHOSE HIGH INFECTION AND MORTALITY RATES QUICKLY ACCELERATED ITS CRISIS LEVELS IN ONLY A FEW MONTHS, CHALLENGED SOCIETY AS WE COLLECTIVELY TRIED TO STOP THE SPREAD.

HERKIMER COLLEGE WAS READY TO STEP UP TO THAT CHALLENGE.

WITH ONLY A FEW WEEKS TO PREPARE AND AN EVER-CHANGING STREAM OF INFORMATION, GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIVES, THE COLLEGE WAS ABLE TO ADAPT ITS COURSE DELIVERY METHODS AND EQUIP STUDENTS AND FACULTY WITH THE TOOLS NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN THE FRONTIER OF REMOTE LEARNING.

Moving to Alternative-Modes of Delivery

Herkimer College's administration tried to acknowledge and get ahead of the potential threat to the campus community from COVID-19, but the quick escalation of cases in New York — especially in the more congested downstate region — kept the College on its toes.

With the announcement that students would not be returning to campus for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester, many questioned how they were expected to complete their degrees. The academic curriculums for the semester had been developed long ago, and they were designed for in-person instruction.

For this, Herkimer College leaned on the experience of those involved in its Internet Academy. The College has been offering remote instruction for over 20 years, with more than 20 degree

programs available entirely online. Faculty were able to use some of the pre-existing tools to reskin their courses for alternative modes of delivery. Others got creative, finding things like cellphone applications and take-home lab sets to keep students on track with their learning outcomes.

In only 17 days, the academic leadership team and faculty converted 419 course sections to alternative methods of delivery. The Information Technology office also developed a laptop loaner program for students and faculty who may not have had adequate technology to learn and teach from home, and also helped distribute things like microphone headsets and kept Wi-Fi access open in the campus parking lot.

"This accomplishment is all the more impressive when we consider the fact that of the 91 full

and part-time faculty members who converted their course sections, 54 (59 percent) of them had little or no prior training in distance learning pedagogies," President Cathleen McColgin said in a congratulatory statement to faculty.

But providing course material isn't all there is to a Herkimer College experience. In person, students can expect services like free tutoring, personal counseling, career counseling, and more. These offices also developed remote-access alternatives and were able to mobilize online. Students could meet with advisers and support staff virtually, and still get all the same resources for success as they had received on campus.

The Academic Support Center (ASC), for example, logged 195 tutoring sessions between March 16 and May 15, for a total of 260.5 hours of tutoring. Joshua Lanza, technical assistant in the ASC, said while the move to virtual tutoring was initially challenging,

the ASC staff did a great job adapting to the new environment and figuring out how to meet with students through applications like WebEx and Zoom.

"Despite what happened with COVID, a good deal of students still took advantage of our services," Lanza said. "We were still there for them no matter what, and we still will be this fall." Lanza said the ASC plans to continue using tools for students to make tutoring appointments online and some of the virtual meeting features because of how convenient they ended up being for some students.

All of this was compiled into a Student Resources page, accessible through the College's new, dedicated Coronavirus Updates webpage on its official herkimer.edu website. That along with a Coronavirus Hotline phone number and email were paramount to keeping information updated and readily available to both students and the public.

we are **adaptive**

Recent grads reflect on completing degrees amid COVID-19

Natalie Todd '20 Early Childhood Education



Natalie Todd had taken online courses before and didn't do as well as when she learned in the classroom, so when she heard the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester was going to be remote, she said she was nervous.

"It was a big change, it was something I had to get used to," she said. "But it was better in a way, because I was more in contact with my teachers with Zoom meetings and things."

Todd said her instructors were all very understanding of her hesitance and were willing to work with her, and she took advantage of virtual tutoring offered through the Academic Support Center.

After graduating from Herkimer College amid a global pandemic, Todd went directly into the workforce. She now works as a school aid for Upstate Cerebral Palsy. Being in the field is a little different than what Todd would normally be experiencing. Her orientation was done virtually, and they have to enforce social distancing between the children, wear masks, and get regular temperature checks when they arrive.

Regardless, Todd said she is doing what she loves and appreciates the first-hand experience. She said she always wanted to be a teacher, and after working with a special needs child through a BOCES career and technical education program, she realized she wanted to focus on special education.

"The question was less about if it was safe for me to work and more about, 'Am I ready?' 'Do I want to start working or try to continue my education?'" she said. "With COVID, my mom helped me see that it might be harder to get a job later, so I decided to try it out. I'm so glad I did."

Todd said she makes sure to follow the state guidelines — regular hand washing, wearing a mask in public, practicing social distancing, etc. — and largely feels safe, but, like everyone else, is ready for things to hopefully go back to normal soon.

CONTINUED PAGE 10

With the new mandates on social distancing and students scattered back to their hometowns, a new solution had to be created for the 2020 Commencement ceremony.



The College Hosts Its First Virtual Commencement

The College created a virtual ceremony that would contain all the fanfare of their traditional Commencement, honor students individually, and have a few special surprises.

On May 15, Herkimer College went live on Facebook and its website to honor the 431 graduating seniors. With only a few necessary people in the theater, thousands of viewers watched along at home as the academic procession crossed the stage — maintaining six feet between marchers and wearing face coverings. Everything else was pre-recorded, and weaved into a live video.

Senior Cassandra Dolan, Communication Arts: Music Industry, sang the national anthem. Reverend Sean P. O'Brien '85, of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Rome, NY, gave the invocation. A slew of political representatives — Vincent J. Bono, chairman of the Herkimer County Legislature; Congressman Anthony Brindisi; New York Senator Charles E. Schumer; etc. — gave their greetings and congratulations

to the Class of 2020, something that wasn't always feasible for a traditional Commencement due to scheduling conflicts.

Herkimer College President Cathleen McColgin was on campus live to address the students at home.

A video featuring faculty and staff delivering their own special congratulatory wishes was a highlight of the ceremony.

When it was time for the awarding of degrees, each student had their name read aloud from the amphitheater, and a submitted photo of them in their Commencement regalia was shown on screen. The Commencement Committee had previously set up a way for students to order their Herkimer Green caps and gowns online and have them shipped directly to their homes. Honors cords and stoles were pre-packaged by the committee and mailed out as well, so students wouldn't miss out on those traditional graduation photo memories.

we are creative

“THE CURRENT SITUATION, WHILE DIFFICULT IN SO MANY WAYS, WILL HELP SHAPE YOUR FUTURE. IT WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT, RESOURCEFUL, CREATIVE AND ADAPTABLE. ALL OF YOU HAVE PERSEVERED THROUGH AN EXTREMELY CHALLENGING TIME. YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF AND THE FUTURE IS YOURS TO CREATE.”

Dr. Cathleen McColgin, President

Stepping Up and Giving Back

COVID-19 didn't just affect Herkimer College, it affected the community at large as well. Many employees came forward to give back to those potentially struggling during the uncertain times.

Approximately 180 unused, boxed N95 respirator masks were collected from the science and forensic investigations classrooms, along with about 40 Tyvek PPE suits. The personal protection equipment was donated to Bassett Health Center in Herkimer, along with the Herkimer Police Department and the Mohawk Police Department.

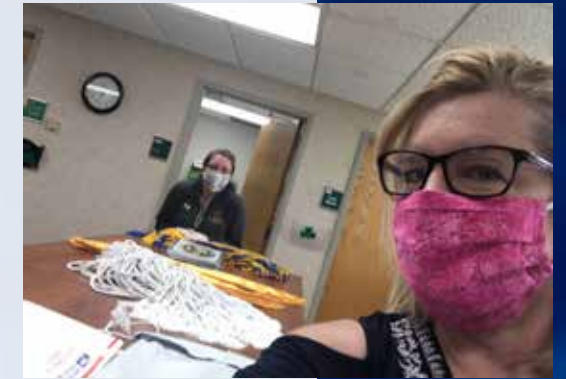
“When the College heard of the critical need for personal protective equipment in the local area, it just seemed like the natural thing to do,” said William Stack, assistant professor of forensic investigations. “Our mission statement speaks to ‘community,’ and our efforts illustrated Herkimer College’s commitment to serve and support the regional needs.”

The General’s Cupboard, a new on-campus resource that provides free food to students, donated many of its unused goods to area food pantries, including the Herkimer County Catholic Charities, Salvation Army and Little Falls food pantries. Additionally the campus offered up its parking lot for a milk and food giveaway in partnership with several organizations.

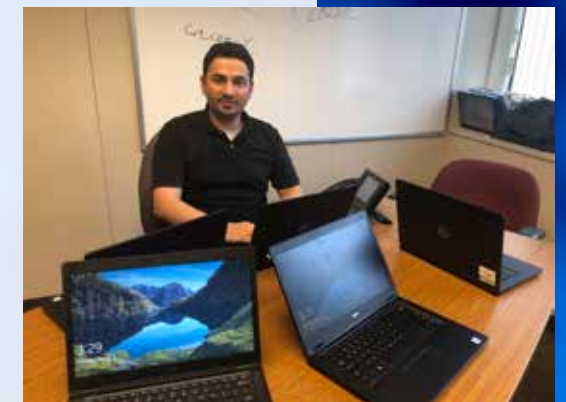
A socially distanced blood drive was held in the varsity gym to support the American Red Cross. The Red Cross was going through a severe blood shortage, as more than 2,600 blood drives had been cancelled due to the pandemic. Herkimer College was able to help support this much-needed program.

Back home, the Herkimer County College Foundation also wanted to do its part and created the HCCF Assists grant program to help Herkimer College students who were potentially struggling financially.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



we are supportive



Ramazani Juma '20 Criminal Justice



For 20-year-old Ramazani Juma of Utica, NY, the most difficult part about the global pandemic has been staying away from people.

"I'm a very social person normally. I'm a person who likes to be outdoors," he said. "All of this just hasn't felt normal."

During the Spring 2020 semester, Juma worked at a nursing home while he wrapped up his final semester at Herkimer College. Once COVID-19 came through and the nursing home stopped allowing visitors, he said it felt like something out of a movie — everything was eerily empty.

But Juma remained positive in the face of this new adversity. When asked how he felt about the sudden news that the College would be going to alternative modes of delivery and that he would have to move out of his on-campus apartment, his demeanor remained calm and cool. He had actually worked ahead throughout the semester and had almost finished some of his online courses by the time the announcement came, so when his normally on-campus courses made the switch he was already familiar with the platforms.

Instead of getting overwhelmed, Juma said he actually helped out several of his peers with their schoolwork. He graduated from the College's criminal justice program with Cum Laude honors.

"I'm just dedicated to doing what I need to do to be successful," Juma said. "If there's a new obstacle, I just focus on getting past anything in my way."

Juma said he has a long road ahead, pandemic or not. He plans to go to Utica College in the fall to earn his bachelor's degree before going on to law school. Juma's family is Somalian, and he was born in a refugee camp in Nairobi, Kenya. He came to the United States when he was 4 years old and reflected on his experience growing up in poverty as a person of color.

"Black people don't get the same representation in the legal system," he said. "We should be focused more on helping people than just incarceration."

Stepping Up and Giving Back

CONTINUED from previous page

"The COVID-19 crisis is uncharted waters for all of us," said HCCF Executive Director Robert Fowler. "As we transitioned to working and learning from home, it became clear that our students were facing tremendous challenges — challenges that in many cases were going to prevent them from completing their coursework."

An additional \$500 from the HCCF grant could be earned on top of any funds received through the HerkCARES program, a local branch of the greater federal emergency funding system, to be used on needs such as technology, shelter, or emergency transportation.

Fowler said the HCCF Assists fund will continue even after the threat from COVID-19 has passed as an ongoing way for the Foundation to help students continue to have access to the College's high-quality educational programs.

"It is the role of the Foundation to support the college and the students that it serves and now, more than perhaps ever, our students need that support," he said. "The decision to create this fund for that purpose was obvious, and now that the fund exists, it's our intention to continue to fund it for future students and their emergency needs."

HERK Cares

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act authorized colleges to award emergency grants to students experiencing financial hardship due to coronavirus. Distributed funds can go toward food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, or child care.

As of July 17, Herkimer College

Distributed
\$234,405
in grants

as of July 24, 2020

Helped
379
students

Returning To Campus

we are **HERKSafe**

After overcoming the quickly changing challenges of the spring, the next hurdle for Herkimer College was to develop plans for how to reopen campus for the fall, while ensuring the safety of the campus community. Though the spread of COVID-19 had slowed in some parts of New York State, things like state travel bans, mask mandates, and more were still in effect.

A Restart Taskforce, composed of individuals representing various campus stakeholder units, was created to develop a plan. The final document, called HERKSafe, was developed within the guidelines and directives of Governor Cuomo's office, the State University of New York, the New York State Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

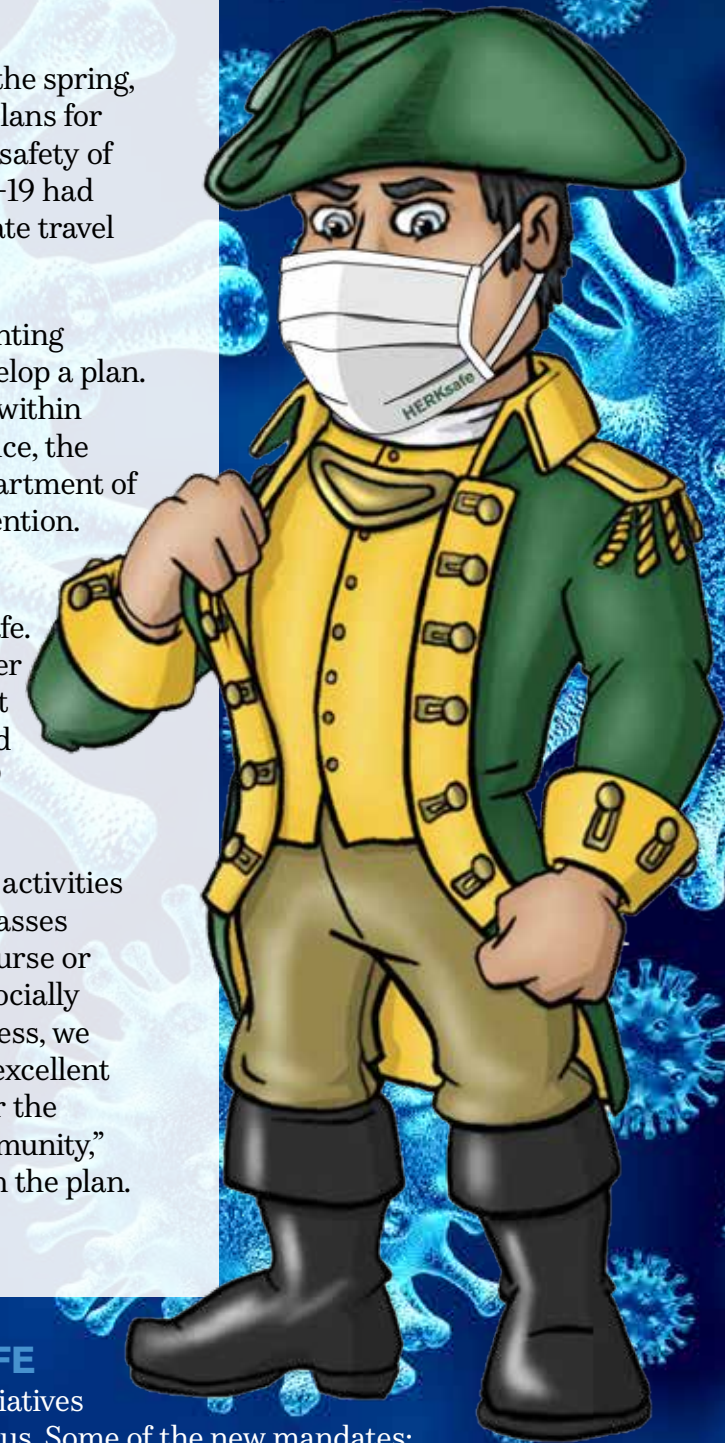
The plan had a strong focus on screening and called on the students to take a pledge to keep themselves safe. Called the "We are HERKSafe Pledge" and modeled after similar documents at other colleges and universities, it outlines things students can do to keep themselves and the campus community healthy and ties the COVID-19 mandates into the Student Code of Conduct.

Most in-person on-campus classes, as well as student activities and club meetings, were shifted to remote formats. Classes and labs requiring hands-on experience to achieve course or program learning outcomes are being delivered in a socially distanced in-person class time. "Throughout the process, we have been guided by two commitments — offering an excellent education to each and every student and providing for the health and well-being of everyone in our campus community," Herkimer College President Cathleen McColgin said in the plan.

KEEPING OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY SAFE

The HERKSafe restart plan included a number of new initiatives and guidelines to minimize chances of exposure to the virus. Some of the new mandates:

- daily temperature checks and completion of a screening questionnaire when arriving on campus
- UVGI technology installed into the HVAC system to eliminate all viruses
- acrylic barriers installed in high-traffic offices
- hand sanitizer available throughout campus
- limiting on-campus housing to one student per bedroom and not allowing outside visitors in residential housing areas



MARIO ROEFARO '06

By Ann Whiting '10

Mario Roefaro *makes a lasting impact* ON HIS ALMA MATER



THIS PAST JANUARY, HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNVEILED ITS STATE-OF-THE-ART ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY SMART GRID LAB, DESIGNED TO TRAIN STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN THE UTILITY INDUSTRY. In attendance was Mario Roefaro '06, best known around campus for his talent on the baseball field. As the first baseman and “closer” during the 2005–2006 season, Roefaro holds the college record for the most saves in a single season – a total of seven.

Now, as director of community and government relations for the New York Power Authority (NYPA), Roefaro acted as point-person to enable the dream of the Smart Grid Lab to become reality. He interfaced with government, local, and college stakeholders to plan for the lab, including finances, timing, and envisioning what the new lab could accomplish.

“It was great to help create this with my alma mater,” Roefaro said. “It took a couple of years, but to be able to step back and take a focused look at it [at the unveiling] was something special.”

The Smart Grid Lab, formally named the New York Power Authority Electrical Technology Smart Grid Lab, is enabling Herkimer College to offer an electrical technology degree, empowering graduates to work in the electrical manufacturing, application, maintenance, and design of electrical systems. Students can also use the degree



Photos courtesy of New York Power Authority

as a stepping stone to earn a bachelor’s degree in engineering technology.

Roefaro started his baseball career at the University of Buffalo, but an injury sent him home after his first year. “Coach Rathbun reached out to me and asked if I’d consider playing for H-triple-C,” he says in explanation of why he chose Herkimer College. While he only broke one College record, with seven saves in a single season – a record he still holds – Roefaro also is included in the College records for the top 20 strikeouts and the top 10 ERA in the program’s history.

After graduating from Herkimer College, Roefaro attended Binghamton University, where he played baseball and earned a degree in philosophy, politics, and law. “I initially planned to attend law

school, but I ultimately decided to take a different path,” he recalls. Instead, he worked for two years for his family’s funeral home, and as a pitching coach at Utica College, before being hired by NYPA handling external communications.

“I’ve hung up my baseball cleats,” he admits. “Now I enjoy spending time on the golf course with my 5- and 3-year-old sons.”

Still, his favorite memories of Herkimer College center around baseball. “The 2006 College World Series was in Glens Falls,” he recalls. “It was an awesome experience with an amazing group of people – such great guys. We might not have won the national championship, but I think we all took pride in representing the College on that type of stage.” ■

EMPLOYEES ARE RECIPIENTS OF
**2020 SUNY Chancellor's Awards
*for Excellence***

“It is a privilege to be able to honor our faculty and staff who go above and beyond to ensure our students are supported and successful in the pursuit of their academic goals. My heartfelt thanks and congratulations are extended to each of the 2020 SUNY Chancellor's Award recipients.”

Herkimer College President Cathleen McColgin

Jason Brown, assistant professor of English, is a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Brown earned his bachelor's degree from SUNY Binghamton and his master's degree from Western Washington University. He joined the Herkimer College faculty over 15 years ago. Brown is well known on campus for always making time to work with students outside of class to help them succeed. He developed the online template for Herkimer's Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), which focuses on writing skills development for students who need additional support, and was one of the program's early adopters. He's the adviser of the Social Issues Club, is a member of the Fall Fest and Alumni Weekend working group, and sits on the Student Judicial Review Board. Brown is also a member of the National Board for the Online Writing Lab.

Librarian **Stephanie Conley** was honored with the Award for Excellence in Librarianship. She holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Fredonia and a master's degree from SUNY Buffalo, and joined the staff in 2010. She provides excellent, student-centered customer service, and serves as the certified administrator for the Alma and Primo library systems and supervisor of the LibGuides and LibAnswers services. Conley also presents to classes regarding library services and organizes special events and activities to help draw students into the library.

Pat Miller, senior financial aid assistant, received the Award for Excellence in Professional Services. She is a 1979 graduate of Herkimer College, and also holds a bachelor's degree from St. Bonaventure University. Miller joined the Herkimer College staff in 1999 and has earned a reputation for superior customer service. She is very engaged in service to the College and the community, having volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. Miller has been named a campus angel twice by On Point for College in recognition of her work with the organization and our students who are supported by On Point. Miller also remains very involved in the College's shared governance structure through her participation in a number of key campus committees.

The award is designated for faculty and staff members who personify professional excellence and serve as role models not only for the State University of New York community, but for Herkimer County Community College as well. ■

Special Visits to
 Project SEARCH
 Grads

Though it was not the ceremony we all had planned for, the Arc Herkimer and Herkimer College staff visited each of the Project SEARCH interns at their homes to congratulate them. We are so proud of all that our interns accomplished last year, and we are thankful for our partnership with Arc Herkimer that allows this wonderful program to take place at Herkimer College.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
 OUR PROJECT SEARCH 2020
 GRADUATES!**



Pictured are Kyle Heansell and Tatiana Pearsall. Other graduates were Zachery Congdon, Ariana Heckwolf and Alexandria Pollidori.

Honorary Doctorate Degree Awarded TO ARC HERKIMER'S CROSLY

Kevin Crosley, president and CEO of Arc Herkimer, was recognized during Herkimer College's virtual Commencement for receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) by the State University of New York (SUNY). He will be honored and presented with his honorary degree in person at a later date.

Crosley is only the second recipient of an honorary degree at Herkimer College; the first was founding College President Robert McLaughlin in 2010.

SUNY awards honorary degrees to distinguished individuals who exemplify excellence in their respective career fields, philanthropy, and public service. Recipients have performed outstanding service to SUNY or humanity at large and serve as examples of SUNY's aspirations for its diverse student body.

Crosley has spent the last 35 years dedicating his vision, talents, skills, and energies to creating opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Herkimer College President Cathleen McColgin stated, "Kevin's work at the local, regional, state and national levels, as well as his many successful and productive collaborations with our College all demonstrate how fully deserving he is of this recognition."



Under Crosley's leadership, Arc Herkimer has been a proactive and innovative partner with Herkimer College. Arc Herkimer's Project SEARCH program is the first in the nation to be hosted on a community college campus. Project SEARCH provides individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities for practical job skills development. "This is a distinction we are tremendously proud of and grateful for, as the presence of these individuals on our campus, working with our employees and interacting with our students, has profoundly enriched our campus environment," said McColgin.

VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED IN HONOR OF PROFESSORS LENARCIC AND RUFF

The Herkimer County College Foundation has established the Raymond J. Lenarcic and Gary W. Ruff Veterans Scholarship to be awarded annually in the amount of \$500 to a veteran of the United States military. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in the Liberal Arts and Sciences: Social Science program at Herkimer College, and active in college and community activities.

Lenarcic, an emeritus professor of history, and Ruff, emeritus professor of sociology, each served more than three decades as faculty. Both have a legacy of serving as community activists with a special interest in supporting Vietnam combat veterans in their struggle for better treatment at VA hospitals. They formed Save-A-Vet and the Veterans Rights Coalition in a successful effort to

involve their students as advocates for veterans' rights. Ruff passed away March 26, 2020, and Lenarcic continues to serve the community through a variety of organizations and initiatives including the Herkimer County Hunger Coalition.

"This scholarship recognizes Professor Lenarcic's and Professor Ruff's lifelong dedication to veterans' rights and causes. Monuments honoring Vietnam veterans located in Herkimer, Little Falls, and Frankfort, along with Veterans Memorial Park on the Herkimer College campus, remain testaments to their belief that our veterans' sacrifices must never be forgotten," said Rob Palmieri, a friend and former colleague of Lenarcic and Ruff, who was instrumental in establishing the scholarship.



For those interested in donating to the Raymond J. Lenarcic and Gary W. Ruff Veterans Scholarship, please make checks out to the HCC Foundation and mail to the HCC Foundation, 100 Reservoir Road, Herkimer, NY 13350. Please indicate "Lenarcic/Ruff" on your check. Donations can also be made online at www.herkimer.edu/give and select "Scholarships" and specify "Lenarcic/Ruff."

For more information, contact the HCC Foundation at fuhrerjm@herkimer.edu



BookMarket Helps Keep Book Costs Low

BookMarket, launching Spring 2021, is Herkimer College's new initiative to help provide students with all their course material needs by the first day of classes at one streamlined price. Barnes & Noble developed the program and after seeing its success at the pilot campuses, Herkimer was eager to jump on board. The model charges per credit hour rather than per course material, creating a huge savings for the students. At \$23.50 per credit hour, a student taking 15 credits will only pay \$352.50 for all required course materials—a significant reduction on the typical \$700 allotted for textbook costs.

Barnes & Noble will receive the course schedule information of the student and take care of everything—all the student needs to do is confirm their order and select store pickup or enter shipping information.

We thank our partners at Barnes & Noble for working with us on this exciting program, and we look forward to being able to provide this unique concierge-like experience to our students, while also keeping costs manageable.

New Certificate in Paralegal Studies

The new Paralegal Studies certificate program began this fall. The program trains students in the core legal content areas such as torts, property/real estate law, contracts, wills, trusts, estates, legal research and writing, civil procedure and litigation, criminal law, family law, and legal ethics.

This 31-credit certificate can be earned in just one year, and graduates will be prepared to go right to work as paralegals and legal assistants. The program can be completed on campus and online.

More information is available at www.herkimer.edu/paralegal-cert

Herkimer will be a 100% Smoke & Tobacco-Free Campus in January 2021

The College Board of Trustees, at its meeting held on June 29, 2020, passed a resolution to amend its campus smoking policy to prohibit vaping and the use of e-cigarettes, in addition to all tobacco products, and to expand the area covered by the policy to include all college property including athletic fields and facilities. Property owned by the Herkimer County College Foundation, including campus housing, is not covered by the College's policy. However, campus housing is covered by its own smoking policy.

This development is the result of a grant project funded by Truth®, a non-profit organization whose mission is, in part, to support colleges and universities in establishing smoke and tobacco free policies for their campuses. Upon receipt of the grant, the College established a Truth Initiative Taskforce. During the past year and a half, the taskforce has garnered support from various campus governance bodies for establishing a 100% smoke and tobacco free policy.

The amended policy reflects the College's commitment to promoting and supporting clean, healthy internal (personal) and external (campus) environments conducive to providing a quality college experience for our students and supporting their academic success and positive personal development. The transition to a 100% smoke and tobacco-free campus reflects a growing national trend among institutions of higher education nationally that have established similar policies for their campuses.



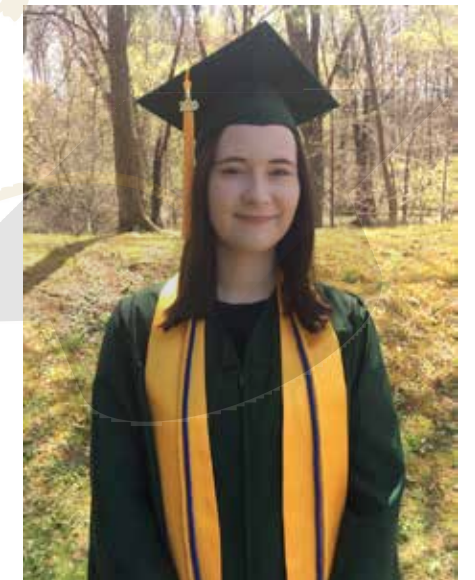
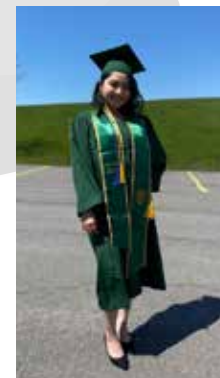
Officer Receives Lifesaving Award

Officer Shea Manley was recognized at a Board of Trustees meeting and an All-Campus meeting for his quick response during an incident on February 10, 2020 in the Campus Safety office. A fellow officer experienced a medical emergency, and Officer Manley was able to provide immediate, life-saving medical attention and call for EMS. Officer Manley was presented the Lifesaving Award by Campus Safety Director Tim Rogers.

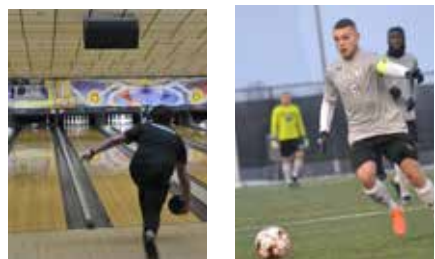
Congratulations *to the* Class of 2020

HERKIMER COLLEGE PROVIDED THE CLASS OF 2020 WITH A SEND-OFF COMPLETE WITH CAPS AND GOWNS, SPEECHES, SMILES AND CHEERS. WHILE THE CEREMONY WENT VIRTUAL, IT HAD ALL THE MAKINGS OF A TRADITIONAL HERKIMER COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.

A recording of the ceremony and the faculty/staff congratulatory video can be viewed at www.herkimer.edu/commencement.



GENERALS RANKED BEST ATHLETIC PROGRAM IN THE NATION



For the fourth time in seven years, the Herkimer Generals have earned the top spot among non-scholarship two-year athletic programs in the country.

Teams that contributed to the first place award included:

- Men's Soccer – 2nd place national finish
- Women's Soccer – 5th place national finish
- Men's Cross Country – 11th place national finish
- Women's Cross Country – 11th place national finish
- Men's Basketball – 5th place national finish
- Men's Bowling – 12th place national finish
- Women's Bowling – 12th place national finish



The men's bowling team was named the NJCAA Academic Team of the Year for 2019-20. This is the 31st time a Herkimer College team has been awarded Academic Team of the Year honors. Led by Coach Tony DeLuca, the team finished 12th in the nation.

Herkimer won the 2019-20 Daktronics Cup, awarded by the National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA). Formerly the NATYCAA Cup award, this program recognizes excellence in two-year colleges, based on athletic success in championship competition.

Suffolk County Community College finished second and Camden County Community College came in third.

Herkimer has now won first place in the NATYCAA Cup four

times, and has placed in the top three every year since the award's inception, except 2009 when the program finished in fourth place.

"I am extremely proud of our student-athletes and coaches for another outstanding year in the classroom, community and on the playing fields," said Dean of Students and Director of Athletics Donald Dutcher. "We strive to achieve excellence in those three areas each and every day, and that's why we continue to rank among the best."



"I am often asked how we continue to perform athletic and academic excellence year in and year out, and my immediate response is that we have some of the best coaches in the country. They are passionate, loyal and committed to Herkimer College and to our student-athletes. Many of our coaches are alumni, including myself, and we want to pay forward the experience we had at Herkimer with coaches like Tom LaPuma, Jack Alofs, Perry Nizzi, Paul Wehrum and Jeanne Galvin, to name a few. ■

UPDATE: NJCAA Shifts Fall Sports to Spring

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, IN MID-JULY, THE NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF REGENTS ANNOUNCED THE SHIFT OF CLOSE-CONTACT FALL SPORTS TO THE SPRING SEMESTER.

These sports include men's and women's soccer and volleyball. The NJCAA cross country championship will remain on its originally scheduled date, as well as women's tennis.

Additionally, all winter sports competition will begin in January with championships moved from March to April. These sports include men's and women's basketball and swimming and diving.

Head men's soccer coach Pepe Aragon, who serves as president of the NJCAA Soccer Coaches Association, was in favor of the change. "In my opinion, if we tried to have a season in the fall, there's too many things that could be disruptive. I didn't want the possibility of having our season end abruptly like it did for NCAA basketball in March. That's it and your season is over with. I was very happy with the decision to move it to the spring."

ROEPNACK NAMED Region III Trainer of the Year

Athletic Trainer Kyle Roepnack was named the 2019-2020 Region III Trainer of the Year by the Region III Athletic Trainers. Roepnack holds a bachelor's degree from Springfield College, has been a certified trainer since 2008 and has served as head athletic trainer for the Herkimer Generals since 2005.

Roepnack is the chairperson and one of the founders for the Region III Health and Safety Committee, a member of the NJCAA Student Athlete Safety

and Welfare Council, and the NJCAA representative on the National Athletic Trainer's Association Intercollegiate Council for Sports Medicine.

"Kyle is an energetic, committed and competent employee who works diligently to represent our athletic department at Herkimer in the highest magnitude," said Dean of Students and Athletic Director Donald Dutcher.

In Memoriam

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

Gary W. Ruff

Professor Emeritus Gary W. Ruff passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at Little Falls Hospital. For more than 45 years, Gary was a dedicated professor of social science at Herkimer College. He served as advisor to the Social Issues Club, sharing his interest in many social justice causes with students, including his advocacy for Vietnam Veterans and passion for Native American rights. Gary was the first coach for the Herkimer Generals basketball program (1969-1970), and he later served as an assistant coach alongside his special friend, Jack Alofs. Upon his retirement, Gary was named professor emeritus in honor of demonstrated excellence and commitment to Herkimer College. Gary continued to work part-time for Herkimer College leading a retention initiative, and later worked for SUNY Adirondack Community College conducting student research and assessment.

Gary was very active in the community, having served on the Herkimer Board of Education, The Lutheran Home Board, Valley Health Services Board, The Herkimer ARC board (2001-2014), and NYSARC Board of Governors and various subcommittees. He also volunteered in numerous capacities with the Herkimer Hunger Coalition.

Our thoughts remain with Gary's family and friends.

Jasmine Finch '20

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Jasmine Finch on Friday, May 22, only one week after graduating from Herkimer College. Jasmine was a member of the Class of 2020, and earned an associate degree in Legal Studies. An active member of the campus community, Jasmine was a student ambassador, resident assistant, and a member of the Truth Initiative Steering Committee. She also had worked part-time in the Counseling Center.

Dean of Students and Director of Athletics Don Dutcher said, "Jasmine was a bright, vibrant and energetic student. She was a leader who worked hard to bring new ideas and initiatives to multiple departments across the campus. She will be missed by all who knew her and whose lives she touched."

We extend our deepest condolences to Jasmine's family for their profound loss. Our thoughts are also with her friends, classmates, and the many faculty and staff members who had the pleasure to know her.

Randall E. Bagley '77
John A. Bartholomeo, Sr. '71
Spencer D. Bennett '96
Doreen Brennan '74
Elizabeth (Betsy) Chaffee '93
Emmett F. Childs, Sr. '83
Becky Eisenhut '78
Gareld Lee Gallagher Jr. '86
Erin Atanasoff Hamalainen '13

Peter McNally '82
Nicholas M. Marro '81
Richard P. Monahan '75
Vicki Lynn (Hartman) Moorhead '91
Terrence J. Murphy '90
Charlotte Patterson '83
Diane Louise (Kovac) Stocking '73
Karen Unruh '74
Michelle A. Williams '90



thank you

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www.herkimer.edu/social



Coming Events | www.herkimer.edu/events

In an effort to maintain a safe campus community and to adhere to current restrictions and social distancing protocols, most upcoming events have been canceled or will be delivered virtually. Please check the events calendar at www.herkimer.edu/events for the most up-to-date information.



ETHEL with guest artist Robert Mirbal
Friday, March 26, 2021, 7 p.m
Sarkus-Busch Theater