



Herkimer
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Connections

2021

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Connections is a publication of Herkimer College. It is published once a year and distributed to alumni and friends of the College.

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Cover Art: This photo by General Studies major **Kendra McGovern '22**, of Cherry Valley, New York, was produced in the Digital Photography class. Kendra created the image at home while distance learning, using the lights to symbolize the stars she and her younger sister would gaze at out their window. To see additional student artwork produced and learn about how COVID-19 has impacted teaching and learning, see pages 8–10.

Herkimer County Community College

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

I'm sure it's not a surprise to most when I say that this past year has been THE most challenging time in the history of our institution.

It has been an exhausting whirlwind of responding to ever-changing guidance and information regarding the virus; supporting the development and delivery of meaningful, engaging lessons and student services remotely; enforcing strict safety protocols on campus; and facing enrollment concerns and budget deficits. By far the hardest part, yet most rewarding, has been providing support for our students, many who have experienced great personal loss, disappointments, safety concerns, academic challenges, and uncertainty about the future.

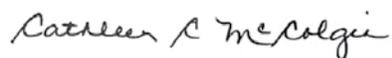
I am very proud of the way Herkimer College has responded to the pandemic with care, compassion and resiliency. For that, I wish to thank the Board of Trustees for their leadership, the administration for their tireless work and innovative solutions, and the faculty and staff for their dedication and support of our students. I am also grateful to the HCC Foundation and all those who have donated to support our students in this time of need.

If there's anything the pandemic has taught us, it is that the connections we share with each other are what matters most. While I certainly miss being able to see many of you in person—especially our students—our new tools have allowed us to connect in new and innovative ways, including virtual town halls and social hours. I've enjoyed meeting your children and pets during meetings, discussing common interests sparked by a photograph or piece of art in your home, and being able to easily share screens and documents, chat and hold video calls within our virtual environment. Surprisingly, we've found many individuals are more comfortable engaging in virtual environments, with many great questions and discussions in our admissions sessions, college meetings, and remote class sessions. While we've adapted to new and innovative ways of connecting, I do look forward to the day when we will be able to again host events on campus and cheer on our Generals during athletic competitions.

The challenges of this past year have shown us how very important our connections are, so I suppose the name of this publication is quite fitting. My sincerest wishes are for all of you to stay connected with us here at Herkimer, whether it be through virtual events, subscribing to our new alumni e-newsletter, or simply reading through this magazine. When we are able to open campus up safely, I look forward to inviting you to campus and connecting with you in person.

Thank you for your continued friendship and support of Herkimer College.

Sincerely,



Cathleen McColgin, Ph.D.
President



If there's anything the pandemic has taught us, it is that the connections we share with each other are what matters most.

SUPPORTING our Community

In times of uncertainty, such as we have experienced this past year, it is even more important to do what we can to support each other. In collaboration with local and regional organizations, including the Herkimer County government, Herkimer College has been able to create and support new, adaptive ways to aid our friends and neighbors.

We've opened our campus to facilitate a variety of initiatives including early voting, blood drives, virtual job fairs, milk and food giveaways, and vaccine distribution. Our ability to host a large number of people while maintaining social distancing, and to accommodate hundreds of cars without causing bottlenecks on local streets, has made our campus an ideal location for these events.

Despite the pandemic, we've developed new connections and strengthened existing partnerships throughout the region.

JOB FAIR on HERKIMER CAMPUS



Herkimer College and Herkimer Working Solutions joined efforts to bring prospective employees and employers together amid mass business closures and layoffs due to the pandemic.



In September, the two hosted the region's first drive-thru job fair on the Herkimer College campus. About 15 companies with immediate hiring needs set up booths in the Wehrum Stadium parking lot. Job seekers remained in their cars, and each was given a bag containing materials from the participating companies. The job seekers then drove to each company station for a brief conversation with a recruiter—masks were mandatory.



Attendees, mostly local residents, expressed gratitude, as this was the first time since March they could meet with recruiters face-to-face in hopes of restarting their livelihoods.

The College partnered with Working Solutions again in December after major arms manufacturer Remington Arms filed for bankruptcy earlier in the year. More than 100 workers came to Herkimer College for a job fair specifically organized for them, as well as to receive more information from Working Solutions about their rights and benefits under the Trade Act.

Keeping Non-profits Front-of-Mind

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Herkimer College remains committed to our long-time partners, including groups like **Catholic Charities, YWCA Mohawk Valley, The Genesis Group**, and more. Faculty and staff also donated \$3,490 to **United Way of the Mohawk Valley**

during the 2020 campus campaign, and the College was the site of four **American Red Cross** blood drives in 2020, collecting 46 units of much needed blood—equating to 138 potential lives saved. The College was also able to register 12 first-time donors.



Director of Student Activities Vicki Brown, left, and Paula Moore, right, pack up food from the General's Cupboard to donate.

Donates Over 100 Boxes of Goods to Local Food Pantries

With many students learning remotely, there was a decreased need for the ample food supply in the General's Cupboard, Herkimer College's on-campus food pantry.

"The committee realized we had more in our inventory than our students would be able to utilize within the semester," said Paula Moore, a member of the General's Cupboard steering committee. "We decided to reach out to our local food pantries and assess the best places to pay forward our inventory."

Staff and students worked together to load canned fruits, soups, stews, meats, beans, broth, ready-made rice and pasta meals, gravy packets, condiments, salad dressings, spices, and more into boxes. The boxes were delivered to the Salvation Army of Herkimer, the Little Falls Food Pantry, and Ilion Catholic Charities.

"Each local food pantry received three shipments over the course of the semester, with about 12 to 16 boxes per shipment," Moore said. "That's more than 100 boxes of donated food."

"Paying forward to other pantries in our area is an honor."



Herkimer County Legislator Robert Schrader led the effort to host several food and milk giveaways for residents of Herkimer County. Major traffic congestion was an issue during the first event held at Herkimer High School, so Schrader turned to the College. With hundreds of cars strategically lined up through the campus parking lots, the College was an ideal location for this type of event.

Along with the Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) and the American Dairy Association - North East, Schrader and many volunteers distributed about 5,200 gallons of milk and 11,000 pounds of food to residents in need over the course of two events, one in August and one in December, according to local media reports. "Thank you goes out to all the volunteers. Without them this would not be a success to help the community," Schrader said.

Early Voting and Vaccine Distribution

The varsity gymnasium was the site of early voting for Herkimer County residents during the 2020 presidential election. Over 5,300 people floated in and out of the approximately 11,000 square foot space between October 24 and November 1, allowing them to safely cast their votes. Similarly, the College has been selected to serve as a vaccination distribution site for Herkimer County.

Community Partnerships

In the wake of the unrest seen across the country after the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, Herkimer College was invited to join a coalition with other area colleges to take a deep dive into the regional response to law enforcement, criminal justice, and racial justice.

THE COLLEGE/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE REFORM

includes Herkimer, as well as Hamilton College, Mohawk Valley Community College, Pratt MWP, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, and Utica College. Various members of local law enforcement organizations, attorneys, and elected officials also sit on the committee.

The College/Community Partnership debuted in September 2020 as a response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's mandate that all jurisdictions in the state with police agencies develop and submit detailed reform plans by April 2021. The reform plans had to take racial justice into account and source local experience and opinions.



Dr. Mark Polkosnik is Herkimer College's liaison for the group. He is a professor of legal studies and paralegal, and has been with the College since 2006. Dr. Polkosnik earned his Ph.D.



Patrick Johnson of Utica speaks at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute with other panelists to announce the College/Community Partnership for Racial Justice Reform. (Photo provided by the *Rome Sentinel*)

in Counseling and Human Development from the University of Georgia and his J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law, and he spent 12 years working as an attorney in his own law office.

In addition to helping organize the group, he also presented a webinar, titled "Understand the Use of Force," alongside Utica College's Bernard Hyman and Plaintiff Attorney Steve Lockwood. All of the Partnership's webinars are available for viewing on its website, community4justice.org.



BRINGS ADDITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Herkimer College has partnered with Integrated Community Alternatives Network (ICAN), a not-for-profit that provides services for people with social, emotional, mental health, and behavioral challenges. With ICAN service coordinator Jill Gilberti, students will have an additional support provider at the ready and easier access to outside services through ICAN's Independent

Practice Association. Over 50 services are available around the clock from more than 200 experienced and culturally competent providers. ICAN has also helped the College set up The General's Warmline, a new telephone line for students to talk about struggles related to the pandemic, stress, anxiety, or any other non-crisis personal concern.



UVGI Technology

Provides air purification throughout campus facilities

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Herkimer College has upgraded its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) infrastructure with the installation of ultra-violet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) technology. UVGI is a disinfection method that uses short-wavelength ultraviolet light to kill or inactivate microorganisms by destroying nucleic acids and disrupting their DNA, leaving them unable to perform vital cellular functions.

Herkimer contracted with Eastern Energy Solutions, Inc. (EES), an energy contracting and consulting firm that has been working with UVGI technology since 2008, primarily in the hospital, dairy and laundry sectors. According to EES President Bob Granger, UVGI has been around for more than 75 years, and was primarily used in the healthcare industry but with the recent pandemic, the use of UVGI is being implemented throughout other market sectors.

UVGI lighting systems are designed to provide air purification, reduce maintenance and increase energy efficiency within the air handling units in which they are applied. As air passes through the UV-C light spectrum/wavelength, airborne

infectious pathogens that can cause respiratory sickness, disease and infection (including COVID-19) are rendered inert, in-turn providing high-level, facility-wide disinfection of the air supplied to occupied spaces.

“What Herkimer College has accomplished is outstanding. The upgrades they have made are delivering many real advantages to all on campus,” said Granger.

According to Nicholas Laino, senior vice president for administration and finance at Herkimer College, the investment in UVGI technology was made primarily to reduce advanced pathogens and mitigate the risk of viral outbreaks. Laino said:

“First and foremost, the health and wellness of our campus community is our top priority, and we are committed to maintaining a safe environment for our students, employees, and visitors.”



Veterans Memorial Park Plaque Installed

The organizing committee for the Veterans Memorial Park at Herkimer County Community College has been recognized for their work in bringing the 2005 project to life with the addition of a new plaque at the park. The bronze plaque displays the names of organizing committee co-chairs Professor Emeritus R.J. Lenarcic and Vince Casale, along with Kelly Brown of the Herkimer County Hunger Coalition and

Vietnam War veterans Jim Hall, Mike Kraeger, Chick Perry, and John Bullis. It features a granite monument etched with more than 650 names of Herkimer County veterans. The new plaque is mounted on a pre-existing large stone that marks the entrance to the park. For more information, visit herkimer.edu/vets-park.



New Tech Leads To Improved Art Course Feedback

– by Kira Maddox

After teaching art courses at Herkimer College for nearly 30 years, **Professor Maryann Wrinn** said the move to real-time remote for Fall 2020 forced her to be more creative and think outside the box of her traditional, hands-on teaching style. After the initial stress of mailing out the art supply kits she would normally pass out in class, she found the rest of the experience surprisingly enlightening.

This past fall, Wrinn taught Drawing I, Painting I, Two Dimensional Design & Color, and Senior Art Seminar—all via real-time remote. With one camera on her face and another overhead showing her artwork, she was able to lead her normal demonstrations with the added bonus of recording them live. This let students go back and re-watch her guides as needed.

“I thought that was far superior to my on-campus teaching—to have that ability for them to go back and see a specific area of the demo,” Wrinn said. “Once we’re back to ‘normal times,’ I want to still use this, because I think it’s so helpful for them.”

Since she couldn’t walk around the classroom and give students live feedback, they emailed photos of their progress at the end of each class. Then Wrinn either printed the photo out at home and wrote personalized notes and edits right on the piece, or she uploaded the photo into Adobe Photoshop for more artistic adjustments to help her students see where they could go with the works.

“That’s another thing that I’m keeping once we’re back on campus,” she said. “No matter how much I talk, and I think students can see what’s in my head, it can still be confusing. This way, I can really directly show them, ‘Here’s what I’m thinking.’ Not that they have to do that, but at least it gets my thoughts across to them more clearly.”



Professor of Fine Arts Maryann Wrinn

“I think the instruction has been phenomenal,” said **Amy Kosina '21**. “Professor Wrinn provided us with all the materials we needed, and her demonstrations made it feel as if we were in the actual classroom. The interaction with classmates was also positive. We were able to discuss and critique as if we were in person.”



Course artwork by Amy Kosina '21





The General Becomes A Melting Pot

– by Kira Maddox



Autumn Sapling by Aleksandra Korol '20



Fairfield Landscape by Michael Ford '21



Informal Portrait by Aleksandra Korol '20

Being online-only by design gave *The General*, the student-run news outlet at the College, an advantage when it came time to launch in Fall 2020, but **Advisor Blake Pitcher '99** was still disappointed they weren't getting that true newsroom feel. However, what they lacked in collaborative space in-person they made up for by becoming a melting pot for the promotion of student-made work across campus.

Editors for *The General* were selected in the beginning of the semester and met virtually every Friday to discuss story ideas and content. Some of it was produced in house by the editors and other Communication and Media students, and some of it was submitted by other faculty members and departments.

Professor Robert Gassmann submitted multimedia packages produced by his Intermediate Media Production and Media Writing classes,

each showcasing how local area businesses were handling the pandemic. The Office for International Programming developed a running opinion column called "From Where I Sit" to share the voices and experiences of international students. Artwork from the Digital Photography class also found a new home on *The General's* website.

"I'm pretty excited to see what other ideas come out of the various areas of the campus," Pitcher said. "This is sort of what I was hoping for, that it was beyond just a collection of work from students in the Communication and Media major and was a true campus publication."

Pitcher said *The General* has exceeded his expectations so far. There will be another call for participants in Spring 2021 as they work to build on their quality and consistency in publishing.

Fashion Program Adapts to Virtual Course Delivery and Changes in the Industry

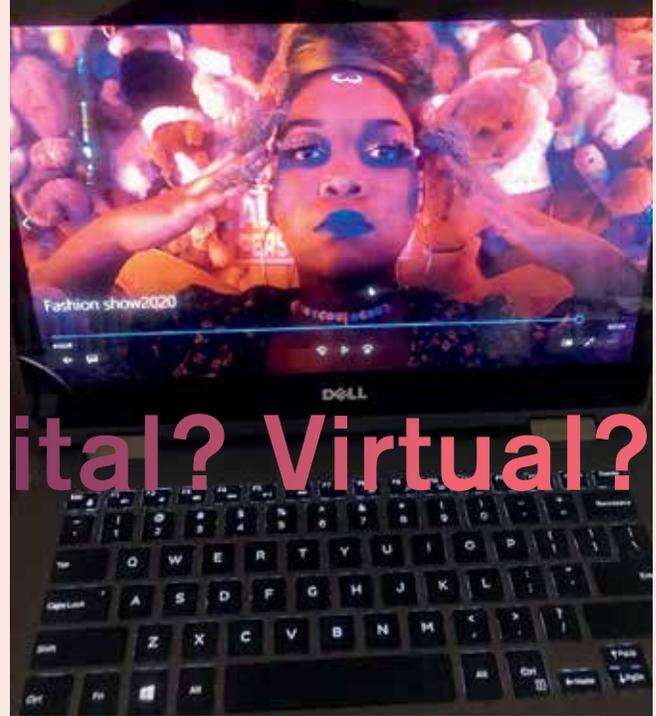
– by Rebecca Ruffing

Physical? Digital? Virtual?

In the midst of transitioning her classes to remote delivery, **Assistant Professor Amy Roepnack** also found herself researching how the fashion industry was adapting to new ways of doing business. Roepnack said:

“Fashion shows and shopping all over the world has gone virtual and the impact of Covid-19 will change the industry forever.”

One of the most notable course adaptations implemented by Roepnack is in the Fashion Show Production course. In lieu of hosting the annual fashion show on campus, Roepnack gave her students flexibility in how they would present their collections. The results included the development of social media pages, digital look books and video productions.



Due to the pandemic, she found the fashion industry allowing greater ease of access to fashion shows with the use of technology and social media. Students were able to view several top fashion shows they wouldn't ordinarily get to experience, including London, Paris, NYC, Milan, Madrid, and Tokyo.

Instead of taking students to New York City to visit the top transfer colleges for fashion, LIM and Fashion Institute of Technology, Roepnack set up virtual transfer sessions with representatives from both colleges. This opened up more time to focus on new initiatives such as alumni chat sessions. In order to assist students with future school and career planning, Roepnack reached out to alumni and invited them to share their experiences with the students virtually. Students appreciated getting an inside look into a variety of jobs in the industry, as well as the networking opportunities that the chat sessions provided.

Roepnack plans to continue incorporating the digital and virtual aspects of doing the industry, alongside with the physical. “COVID-19 will forever change the content of my classes,” said Roepnack.





FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM ranked among the **TOP IN THE COUNTRY**

CrimeSceneInvestigatorEdu.org, an independent online resource providing information on education for crime scene investigation and forensic professionals, included the Forensic Investigations A.A.S. degree program in its list of Best Associate Programs in Crime Scene Investigation for 2020–21. Herkimer College was listed third, with special nods for its small class sizes, expansive SUNY transfer agreements, and extensive field training. Programs were chosen based on qualifications like faculty experience, training facilities, lab equipment, and opportunities for meaningful hands-on experiential learning.

HERKIMER RANKED #2

Herkimer was ranked No. 2 among the 30 New York community colleges offering online associate degrees or certificates, based on several factors, such as retention rate, graduation rate, percentage of online enrollment, and the

number of online associate degrees offered. The rankings were determined by Optimal, formerly known as the SR Education Group, an organization that uses data to help empower students to be able to make the best decisions on higher education and career path. This is the second consecutive year Herkimer College has been recognized by the group.

98% of Internet Academy graduates from the Class of 2020 **were satisfied with their online learning experience.**
(source: Graduate Survey Class of 2020)

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

Psychology A. A.

A new associate in arts degree program in psychology is designed to provide a solid foundation in psychological studies by familiarizing students with the various fields of study, putting them in a more-informed position to focus their interests and career goals when transferring to a four-year college or university.

The program covers key topics like developmental, childhood, and adolescent psychology; abnormal psychology; marriage and family dynamics; social psychology; and more.

In addition to traditional in-person learning, the program is also available entirely online. For more information, visit herkimer.edu/psychology.

Pre-Employment Corrections Basic Training

A new Pre-Employment Corrections Basic Training certificate program is the first of the two-phase program that leads to a correction officer obtaining a certificate of completion for a course equivalent to the Basic Course for Correction Officers.

Open to both civilians and sworn correction officers, the program was developed in partnership with the Herkimer County Sheriff's Office. Herkimer is the only college in the region to currently offer this program. "This course covers a wide variety of topics and far exceeds the state minimum course standards for a correction officer, making recruits very marketable for both county and state correction officer positions," said Michael Masi, retired police chief from the Little Falls Police Department and director of the new program. The minimum number of course hours for a state correction officer is currently 184, and the program at Herkimer includes 432 course hours. For more information, visit herkimer.edu/corrections.

TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND

STRONG START for New Health Professions Degree Program

The program is designed to prepare students for transfer into a variety of bachelor's degree programs in health-related fields.

A transfer agreement was recently signed with SUNY Upstate Medical University, allowing graduates of this program to seamlessly transfer into the following programs:

- Medical Imaging Radiography (X-ray), B.S.
- Medical Imaging Sciences/Ultrasound, B.S.
- Medical Technology, B.S.
- Medical Biotechnology, B.S.
- Radiation Therapy, B.S.
- Respiratory Therapy, B.S.

The partnership also includes an early admissions program for high school seniors, where students can apply to both Herkimer College and SUNY Upstate with guaranteed admission into one of the upper division programs at SUNY Upstate Medical University, provided they maintain the GPA requirements and meet all the conditions of acceptance.

Herkimer recently entered into an agreement with SUNY Empire State College allowing eligible graduates with an associate degree in cybersecurity and digital forensics to transfer into SUNY Empire's new bachelor's program in security studies.

SUNY Empire developed the security studies program in response to the growing need for experts in the fields of emergency management, disaster relief, and law enforcement. Students can expect to examine a variety of complex, modern global threats, including terrorism, privacy, and homeland security.

The agreement allows incoming students to transfer as many as 79 lower-division credits to SUNY Empire, more than half of the 124 credits required to earn a bachelor's degree, saving students valuable time while reducing tuition costs. The partnership also waives the registration fee and provides a \$100 presidential transfer scholarship.

FACULTY PROFILE



BS: Economics, State University of New York at Oneonta

MBA: SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Utica

Professional Affiliations: Legislator, Oneida County Legislature
New York State Real Estate Professional

Board Memberships: Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Current President of Board

What do students need to know in order to succeed in college?

Grit. Students that develop grit and perseverance will work their way to success. I find that our students at Herkimer College all possess the intellect to succeed—they just need to put in the time and effort and stay the course.

Steven R. Boucher

Assistant Professor - Business

Steven Boucher has taught business management, marketing management, and retail management classes as an adjunct. He had a successful career as an account executive and executive vice president of a publishing company, where he oversaw a 14-state territory producing over \$80 million in revenue, with more than 400 employees and 10 district managers as direct reports. Boucher also was the original owner and manager of Remsen, New York's iconic restaurant, The Soda Fountain, from 2008 to 2019.

What interests you most about the subject area in which you teach?

My two main concentrations of subject areas are marketing and management. These areas of study directly impact the success or failure of organizations in our world. It is exciting for the students to observe current businesses use the techniques that they are studying.

What do you find most rewarding about teaching and why?

The most rewarding part of teaching is when I see students discover how all the pieces fit together and how what they have learned is actually used in the work world.

What do you enjoy most about teaching at Herkimer College?

Herkimer provides a supportive environment for both staff and students. I have been impressed with Herkimer's ability to pivot and provide services in a very quick manner. As a smaller college with good leadership, we have been able to be nimble and effective.

There is no substitute for hard work.

Q&A:

Herkimer College student publishes first fantasy novel, *Darkness Rise*

Herkimer College student **Carynn Bohley '21**, General Studies A.A. (Salem, New York), is the author of *Darkness Rise*, an upcoming novel about forbidden supernatural power set in the fantasy world of Mysticus. The book follows protagonist Kydessia Swift as she contends with her newfound abilities and goes on a journey in search of safety and self-discovery, grappling with betrayal, sacrifice, and a murmured threat of darkness on the horizon.

Bohley spoke with the College about her longtime love for writing, working with publisher Darkstroke, and what she hopes readers will take away from her first completed fantasy work.

What is it that draws you to writing?

I always feel like there's something more—and I found that in fiction. I was a big reader for a long time. [...] I started dedicating all of my extra time to writing.

Your previous works were all self-published, and this time you're working with a publisher. What made you decide to go this route, and how did you come upon Darkstroke?

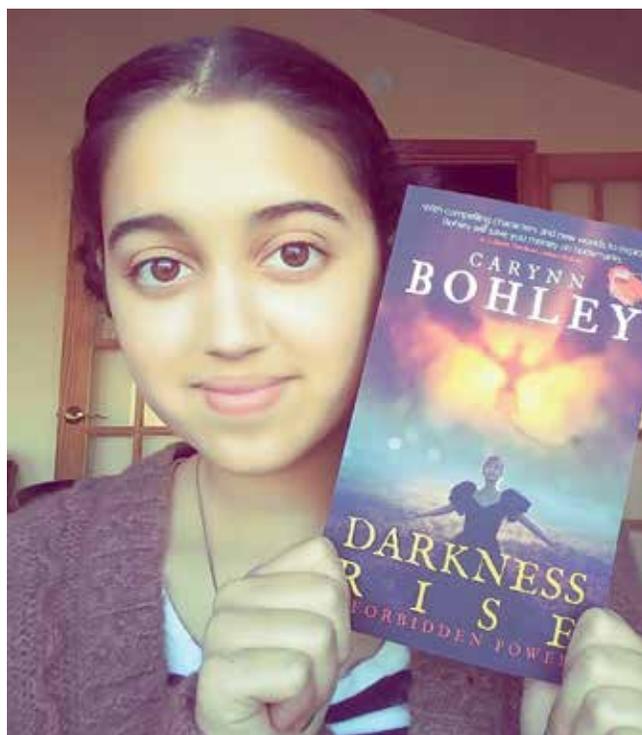
I've actually always wanted to go through the traditional publishing route, but I just never really had an opportunity. [...] This past summer I was querying agents for *Darkness Rise* and I participated in a Twitter pitching event called #PitMad. Basically, if an agent or publisher likes your tweet, which is a pitch of your book, then you're able to send them the manuscript. Darkstroke liked my tweet, I sent them the full manuscript, we did a Zoom call, and they offered me a contract.

Darkness Rise was something you picked up again after working on it a few years prior. What was that like, going back and having to re-tweak and re-edit?

I wanted to add a lot of other things to fill out the plot. I think I sort of rushed the original version, so I wanted to have more character building. In the original, Kydessia left her hometown basically after the first two chapters, and this time I wanted to have a lot more about her typical life. So, in this version, she's actually in the place where she was born for almost half of the book.

What sort of emotions or takeaways do you want readers to have with *Darkness Rise*?

I don't want to spoil anything, but the ending leads into a sequel, so it's sort of a shock what happens. I just want people to fall in love with the characters enough to want to see what happens next. [...] I have a lot of themes that I think would be helpful to people, such as sibling love and sacrifice. I want to have characters that people want to emulate, and I hope that these characters can inspire people to try to better themselves, be more sacrificing, brave. Hopefully I can get that across.



Learn more about *Darkness Rise* at darkness-rise.com and follow Carynn Bohley on Twitter @carynnbohley for more updates on her work.



Herkimer High School

sees first student
to graduate
with diploma,
college degree
thanks to
P-TECH program

— by Kira Maddox

Marietta Altieri '20 was a step above the rest of her classmates at Herkimer High School last year. After participating in Herkimer College's P-TECH program, she became the first student from the high school to graduate her senior year with both her high school diploma and a two-year degree.

The P-TECH program runs in partnership with Herkimer BOCES and focuses on group collaboration and hands-on learning. Students are able to take the lead role in their learning, choosing pathways to their careers as they work toward their associate degree at no cost to their families.



Marietta Altieri is joined by her uncle Ed Mamrosch, left, and father Mark Altieri, right, at her graduation from Herkimer High School (Provided photo).

“I really liked the college portion, because everyone was focused on their coursework and doing what they needed to get done,” Altieri said. “All of the employees at the college were really helpful as well.”

Altieri said she decided to pursue the P-TECH program to get out and try something new. She was able to get most of her high school graduation requirements finished up by tenth grade, leaving her junior and senior years open to focus on college courses. She ended up graduating from Herkimer High School with her diploma and an associate degree in Quality Assurance – Science.

Altieri is now at Cazenovia College as a junior. After working at Pohlig's, a home improvement company in Little Falls, she developed a new-found interest in design. Altieri is pursuing a bachelor's degree in interior design with a minor in interior decorating.

The Modern Monet: Milnalis Diese never let near blindness cloud her vision

— by Kira Maddox

Milnalis Diese '17 made a name for herself at Herkimer College for being an active student, who was well-liked and excelled in the classroom. But what many didn't see was Diese's struggle with her eyesight. At age 16 she was diagnosed with keratoconus, a rare eye condition that causes the tissue on the cornea to thin and bulge outward like a cone. The condition was only going to get worse.

"They weren't very motivational," Diese said of her doctors. "They told me I shouldn't even go to college, because it would be a waste of my mom's money. As a 16-year-old from the Bronx, trying to get out of this generational cycle, it was very hard. I felt very defeated, but my mother was the one who said, 'No, you're going to do this and you're going to get it done.'"

By the time she arrived at Herkimer College, Diese was only six points away from being legally blind—a secret very few people knew. Outwardly, Diese said she had an upbeat and peppy attitude, and was well-known for her sense of fashion—only fitting for a fashion buying and merchandising student. But Diese recalled the many tears and sleepless nights she had in her on-campus apartment behind the scenes while she tried to navigate her blurring world to study and do her work.

"I should have told [my professors]. I probably could have gotten my tests printed out larger or something similar. But nobody knew," Diese said. "I kind of liked people not knowing, because I didn't want them to just see that side of me. Even after Herkimer, I didn't tell anybody, because I didn't want to be viewed as just a disability. I wanted to be viewed by my accomplishments."

With the help of a close group of supportive roommates and friends, Diese not only made it through her two years at Herkimer, but was invited to join the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, was a peer tutor, a student ambassador, and a resident assistant. She graduated at the top of her class and was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

After graduation, Diese headed back downstate to Manhattan and attended LIM College, a fast-paced fashion business school. Diese said going from Herkimer's small campus to a sprawling city school, where the campus is made up of several buildings on different city blocks, was initially overwhelming, but she knew she had to work hard and push forward. She held down required internships with high-profile clients, worked a second job for income, and attended her classes.

It was a big challenge, especially with

While she knew graduation from LIM was coming up, her keratoconus loomed over her, compounding in severity every year. Her optometrist estimated she would lose her eyesight completely by age 26. Diese said she knew she needed to have surgery to stabilize her vision, but worried about the funds. The collagen cross-linking procedure, which wasn't covered by her health insurance, would cost about \$5,000 she didn't have.

Her best friend, Diana D'artnay, who Diese met while attending Herkimer College, suggested she set up a GoFundMe account. Diese said she slept on the idea for about two weeks, hesitant to let the world into her personal struggles, before finally setting up the fundraiser.



To Diese's surprise, donations began flooding in. Old friends, classmates, professors, and employers all rallied behind her. Names of people she had met only once showed up on the list of donors, leaving what they could and offering their well-wishes. It only took two days for Diese to raise the \$5,000.

"That was really surprising," Diese said. "I knew people believed in me, but I didn't know they believed in me to that extent. That was the biggest eye-opener for me."

The young artist quickly booked the surgery appointment for December 2019, to happen only a week after her graduation from LIM. After Diese made it through her hardest semester at LIM—she worked her required internship Monday through Thursday as a traveling merchandiser for fashion company Max Mara, attended in-person class on Friday, and worked a retail job on the weekends—she was extremely nervous for her procedure. She feared the worst, like never recovering.

her eyesight still in jeopardy, but Diese didn't want to quit.





The apartment Milnalis had been living in with her mother in the Bronx was given a surprise makeover by famous actress Drew Barrymore and the Drew Barrymore Show. The reveal was aired in Season 1, Episode 54 in November 2020 (Provided photo).

When the procedure was finished, Diese spent two weeks in near darkness due to light sensitivity. It was in this time of personal reflection that she said she heard a calling. “When I was going through my healing process, I can vividly recall hearing God’s voice—because that’s what I personally believe in, but I don’t push my beliefs on anyone else—and having him tell me, ‘OK, now that you have your eyesight, what are you going to do with it?’” Diese said. “I created you to create, so now you need to help others.”

Diese knew there were creators and makers like her, budding professionals looking to get their shot. And those people could prosper if they worked together to make one another stronger. During the week, she brainstormed her next moves, and everything became clear. She had a company name, a mission statement, and a business plan by January 2020.

Diese launched Created2Create, LLC, a networking company that aims to connect people from all sorts of industries worldwide, organizing panels, workshops, mentorship programs, and more. The business does most of its outreach through

Instagram, where Diese said she highlights other makers, whether they be traditional artists, chefs, marketing designers, or anyone who makes something. Created2Create also develops branding kits for aspiring influencers and holds virtual panels and events.

“The end goal is to throw events globally, but obviously we can’t do that at this point due to the pandemic,” Diese said. “But when I do host these virtual events, I’ve had people tune in from all over the world—Australia, Europe, all across America. It’s been really cool seeing the community grow.”

Diese’s story began to circulate in the news. She was profiled in News12’s Best of the Bronx series and BaskNewYork.com’s community spotlight, had a Q&A published with EveryStylishGirl, LLC, and was featured on podcasts with both Julio Taku and Self Soul Convos. The biggest highlight may have been when she was invited onto The Drew Barrymore Show, where the famous actress surprised her with an apartment makeover. Diese had been living in her mom’s apartment in the Bronx with her two younger sisters—also Herkimer College students for Early Childhood Education and Business—and Barrymore said she wanted to give her a space to inspire her work. The television episode aired in November 2020.

“I’m still in shock by that,” Diese said. “They made it seem like a competition or there were more people involved than just me. It was a huge surprise—I had no idea what they were actually doing.”

Now, Diese is focused on running her company and working as an independent social media manager for various businesses—over 20 and counting. She also recently took a job with Converse as a men’s shoe designer. But even with all of her new experiences and personal growth, she said she still loves Herkimer College.

“It’s because when I was there as a student, they genuinely connected with me and I’d genuinely connect with them... It was very much the fact that I found a family there.”

Doing Something You LOVE: Herk Grad Finds Work Family With Disney Magic

— by Kira Maddox

Herkimer College prides itself on being a college that treats its students like family. It was this personal touch that brought **Courtney Tasco '14** to the campus.

Tasco played high school softball at Rome Free Academy and was looking to join the Generals team. She said **Coach PJ Anadio '02** didn't mince words about what he thought of the college.

“Coach Anadio talks about Herk like it's the best thing ever—and it is. It was the best two years of my life. I wish it was a four-year school.”

Other than Anadio's praises, it was the extra care she saw from the faculty that attracted her to Herkimer. After shadowing friend and fellow RFA alumnae **Stephanie Siriano '13** to her classes for a day and seeing the classroom atmosphere first-hand, Tasco said she applied immediately.

“At Herkimer, I was someone who stood out,” she said. “Because of the small class sizes, I was able to ask questions, and professors would actually know me and know my work ethic.”

Being able to live with friends **Delaney Buckley '14** and **Alyssa Balfe '14** in Herkimer's apartment-style housing was an extra bonus.



Courtney Tasco says her team at Partners Federal Credit Union is like a family (Provided photo).

As she prepared for graduation, Tasco said her academic adviser suggested the Disney Professional Internship program for recent graduates. While she began the program doing lifeguarding at one of the Florida resorts, she was able to transfer over to Partners Federal Credit Union, the not-for-profit financial cooperative that exclusively serves employees and families of The Walt Disney Company.

“My background was in banking, and I had done summer internships at AmeriCU Credit Union,” Tasco said. “It turned out that Partners actually ran on some of the same systems as AmeriCU, so that really worked out well for me.”

Tasco said she had obvious hesitations about taking a full-time job so far from home—although she was able to stay with her aunt and uncle for a



Courtney's Generals spirit lives on as both her work crew team (left) and volleyball team (right) took home first place in their tournaments (Provided photo).



Alumni

time—but her coworkers at Partnemade it all worthwhile. “I had to stay after I found my second family—after my softball family,” she said.

Partners also provides its employees with a multitude of enrichment programs. Tasco has competed in company volleyball and crew tournaments and is a regular on one of their softball teams—she said she couldn’t stay away from her favorite sport.

Tasco works as a loan phone and web content specialist, working with a team of 12 to set up

clients with loans, for automobiles, home equity, mortgages, etc. Now going on five years with Partners, Tasco said she doesn’t plan on leaving the Sunshine State anytime soon, instead hoping to grow within the company. She and her boyfriend, Evan, recently bought their first house.

“With Coach PJ as an influence, I learned whenever you’re doing something you love, you don’t consider it work,” she said. “We rely on each other, and that’s just how we were on the softball team. At Partners, I’m part of a new team.”



Class Notes

Triston Henry '14, a former Generals soccer all-American, was named the Canadian Premier League top goalkeeper of the year, winning the Golden Glove Award. Henry also won the 2020 CPL championship this season with Forge FC.

Tazlin Dicob '16, announced her engagement to Brett C. Hayes, both of Herkimer. Their wedding is scheduled for October at Twin Ponds Country Club in Utica.



Sean Salce '91, Chris Joy '91, Jim Randall '91, James Vanderbeek '91, John Egresits '91, Jason Ginsberg '91, Lance Casey '91, and Mark Simpson '91, gather for a friendly golf outing and mini reunion.

Andy Frank '85, of Utica, is employed as a bus driver with Westmoreland Central School. He moderates a public Facebook group for Herkimer College Alumni.

Karlei (fka Kim) Wilcox Favreau '93, lives in Arkansas and is an advocate for peace, love and happiness. “Missing my roots, lol. I would love to reconnect with any of my classmates who are positive thinkers and advocates for peace!”

Submit your class notes at
herkimer.edu/classnotes

In Memoriam

Thomas D. Chenel, Sr. '02, July 24, 2020, age 69

Todd C. Coleman '10, Nov. 18, 2020, age 50

Lou Ann (Williams) Day '01, Jan. 13, 2021, age 66

Grace (Banick) Decker '86, Dec. 29, 2020, age 61

Leslie J. (Johnson) Henrickson '72, Aug. 15, 2020, age 77

Brian C. Holtz '89, Dec. 3, 2020, age 82

Linda A. Juteau '99, Dec. 2, 2020, age 76

Brandon Overstreet '13, Nov. 23, 2020, age 28

Diane L. (Kovac) Stocking '73, Aug. 19, 2020, age 66

Michael J. Vivacqua '95, Dec. 4, 2020, age 45

James Dominick Accattato, of Frankfort, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, January 9, 2021. Mr. Accattato served on the College Board of Trustees from October 1997 to June 2013. In addition to his service as a trustee, Mr. Accattato also was a member of the Herkimer College Housing Corporation Board. Mr. Accattato was a dedicated and valued member of the college community. For those wishing to do so, please consider a donation in Jim’s memory to a charity of one’s choice. Mr. Accattato’s obituary can be viewed at eneafamily.com.

George T. Hildebrant, of Old Forge, passed away on February 6, 2021. Mr. Hildebrant served his country with honor in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967, and then in the U.S. Army Reserve until 1993, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He was the Town of Webb Supervisor, retiring in 2001 after 25 years. Mr. Hildebrant served on the Herkimer County College Foundation Board of Directors from 1998–2008. He was a dedicated representative of the College and instrumental in securing venues for the successful Harley Davidson raffle in the Old Forge area. To view his obituary, go to dimplebyfuneralhomes.com.



“The pessimist complains about the wind;
the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails.”

– William Arthur Ward

Softball Coach Connects Nationwide Thanks to New Digital Toolset

– by Kira Maddox

Sent to him by a previous colleague, it was the above quote that softball head coach **PJ Anadio '02** said he took his inspiration from when it was time to deal with the new normal of balancing pandemic safety with his love of sport.

“I think we as adults at home are a little bit better equipped to handle all of this,” Anadio said. “Everyone forgets these kids just want to be normal 18-to-19-year-old college students.”

On the field, Anadio said the cancellation of intercollegiate play had some positives. Normally his team competes against Division I colleges in the fall. With that out of the way, it gave them more time to look inward.

“Sometimes there was such an emphasis on gameplay, that there wasn't as much time to teach,” Anadio said. “It was sort of a blessing in disguise, in that sense, since we were able to slow down and focus more on the individual play style and go deeper for improvement.”

Regardless, he said his student-athletes were still elated to hear the College planned to bring back Spring 2021 competition play, and said their cheers of joy “were like we won the National Championship again.”

Off the field, Anadio had to get creative. With limited in-person visits, he turned to video conferences to stay involved with prospective student-athletes, a venture that turned out to be more lucrative than he expected. Linking up with various Amateur Athletic Union softball travel

teams, Anadio was able to virtually scout potential players and also meet with them in a more personal way. He would schedule Zoom calls with teams, promoting Herkimer Athletics while also giving general advice to the college-bound players.

He would watch video breakdowns of their play and give free feedback, and he put players in contact with Herkimer College alumni in their area to learn more about the College and what to expect as they prepared for their next chapters.

“We were trying to make connections in more personal ways, and that really worked out,” Anadio said.

With the new digital format, Anadio has been able to reach softball players from all across the country. He even held a two-hour-long Zoom session for members of a Canadian club softball organization that put him in front of more than 100 softball players and coaches.

“We've broadened our horizon on recruiting, and these are practices we're going to definitely continue into the future,” he said.

Anadio Honored by The Genesis Group

PJ Anadio was selected by the Genesis Group for recognition in its 15th annual Striving for Success program. The program honors young professionals and entrepreneurs for their dedication and commitment to their profession and the community, and for going above and beyond while excelling in their career field.

“Since Anadio took over the program in 2010, the Generals—through tireless work on the field, in the community, and especially the classroom—have earned the reputation of being one of the top programs at an athletically and academically rich institution,” the College said in its nomination of Anadio.

Background photo: Shortstop Aubrey Ketcham '20 in a game against Mohawk Valley Community College during the 2019 season (File photo).

Update From the Athletics Department

In accordance with the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), Herkimer College postponed intercollegiate competition for its fall and winter teams. Though the season looked different, many student-athletes made the best of a tough situation, holding modified on-campus workouts and trainings with new safety guidelines in mind. These practice games were at times streamed live on the Herkimer Generals website.

In January 2021, **Donald Dutcher '90**, dean of students and director of athletics, announced the College would return to competitive play in the Spring 2021 semester.

“We are committed to providing our student-athletes with a safe competition experience, and to collaborative efforts in support of our student-athletes,” said Dutcher, who also serves as the men’s director of Region III.



Assistant Golf Coach
Jack Conger



The softball team made the most of a difficult fall season and were able to focus on their individual strengths, on and off the field.



There was no rest this summer. The Generals coaching staff masked up to make sure the fields were ready for practice.

Generals Assistant Golf Coach Earns CNY PGA Honors

Herkimer Generals **Assistant Golf Coach Jack Conger** has been named the 2020 Teacher and Coach of the Year by the Central New York Professional Golf Association. He also won the 2020 Player Development Award.

The Teacher and Coach of the Year honor recognizes a PGA professional who is an outstanding teacher of golf among the ranks of PGA membership, according to the Association.

This award is based on a professional’s overall performance in teaching; unusual, innovative and special teaching programs initiated or

implemented; articles published; as well as outstanding golfers the professional has instructed. The Player Development Award honors Conger’s “extraordinary and exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of player development,” according to the CNY PGA, including leadership commitment.

Esports Gets NJCAA Approval After COVID Pause

– by Kira Maddox

In our previous issue, we announced Herkimer College would be forming a collegiate esports team with a soft launch in Fall 2020. Due to several challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, those plans had to be put on hold. But that didn't stop students from connecting and honing their gaming skills.

Unofficial esports teams formed within the College's pre-existing Gaming Club, spearheaded by club advisers **Joshua Lanza '12**, **Frank Drapalski**, and **Dan Thompsune**. The club regularly advertised to students and organized matchups not only against one another, but with other SUNY schools through several SUNY-sanctioned gaming tournaments.

"It was great that we had this capability, because otherwise we would have been starved for events," Lanza said.

Several of the matchups were streamed live on the College's new Herkimer Generals Esports Twitch account, [twitch.tv/herkimer_generals_esports](https://www.twitch.tv/herkimer_generals_esports).

In January 2021, **Don Dutcher '90**, dean of students and director of athletics, announced plans to launch an intercollegiate esports team were back on the table. Herkimer Generals was approved as an official NJCAA team and is launching in Spring 2021 for intercollegiate play, with Drapalski and Lanza as co-managers. The College hopes to have set teams for more than 10 popular esports titles, including League of Legends, Overwatch, Rocket League, and more.

"Unlike traditional sports, esports can still play on, even in the face of a pandemic. We were fortunate to have a SUNY system that supports this."

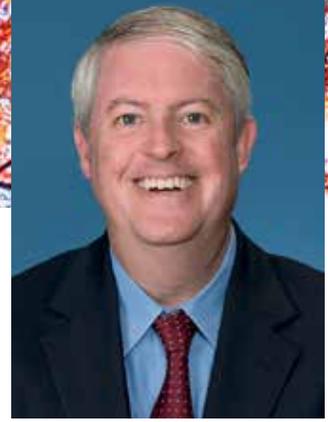


College President Appointed to Board of Regents for NJCAA

President Cathleen McColgin was appointed to the Board of Regents for the NJCAA in 2020. The Board of Regents is the governing body of the NJCAA, developing by-laws, procedures, and policies for the organization. Its members are all volunteers, with a board chair, men's senior administrator, women's senior administrator, six presidential representatives, and representatives from each of the 24 regions and six districts of the NJCAA. President McColgin will serve as a presidential representative at-large. She was previously a member of the NJCAA's Legal Review Committee.



From the Executive Director



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the College prepares to graduate the class of 2021, in what is easily the most challenging times of our lives, I keep thinking back on all that has occurred. From adjusting to working from home, to learning how to communicate with everyone virtually, to the cancellation of so many events and gatherings that for years have played a significant role for the College and Foundation. I can't help but look back at all of this and ask "how did we make it all work?"

There is no one answer. Frankly, the answer lies in the overwhelming effort, generosity and kindness of everyone reading this. And so, I extend an enormous thank you to you all!

Thank you to the leadership of both the College and the Foundation. Your efforts have resulted in maintaining an environment which has allowed our students to continue learning and all of us to continue working.

Thank you to the many alumni and friends who found a way to continue to contribute to the Foundation. You helped us start a new COVID relief fund for our students, an initiative which, as of this writing, has distributed more than \$25,000 to our students in need.

Thank you to our many business partners who, in these unprecedented times, continue to work with the College and Foundation to keep things moving forward. Nobody has a playbook for a pandemic, and yet the perseverance you have shown has played a significant role in helping see us through.

Thank you to the faculty and staff. You have been innovative in transitioning your courses and services to a remote delivery. You answered the bell for our students, week in and week out, all while continuing to manage your own families and households.

And let's not forget our students. It would be easy to give up. This learning environment is not anything any of us have experienced. Despite the difficulties, the majority of our students have hung in there. They figured out how to attend classes and do the work remotely, while in many cases, dealing with great personal challenges. They stayed on course, and now many are getting ready to graduate!

I can't thank all of you enough for the dedication you continue to show Herkimer College and the Foundation. I am so looking forward to getting back out to visit many of you in person, in one way or another, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to further the efforts of Herkimer College. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do!

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

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Zainab Mansaray-Storms
Wendy Marchese
Brenda Marino
Sarah Marois
Mary Martin
Rick Martinez
Savannah Martinez
Laura Martini
Jodi Marusic
Angelo Matz
Diana McDonnell
Sheilagh McGreal
Terence McGuire
Richard Mendez
Joe Mendoza
Shannon Merwin
Joseph Militello '71
Leigh Miller

Dana Mindlin
Frank Misuraca
Mark Monroe
Gregory Monroe
Corazon Montevirge
Morticianstudy.com, Inc.
Richard Mullen
Chelsi Munning
Brian Nackley
Krista Nesbit
Aida Nevarez
Amy Newton
Steven Newvine '77
Karen Nicosia
Oriona Nikaj
Christina Nola
Lynn O'Connell
Felix Ortiz
Mabel Ovalles
Pacific Gas & Electric
Company
The PG&E Corporation
Foundation
John Pagano
Karen Page
Sam Palmer
Diane Palmieri
Mark Patch
Kevin Patterson
Patricia Penwell
Christine Perez
Donald Perkins
Tyrone Perrault
Melissa Peruzzi '95
Patricia Pierro
Julie Pizzarelli
Katherine Pollard '80
Emma Pozza
Jenna Primiano
Holly Princiotto
Daniel Purcell
Michael Pusz
Marlene Quick
Patrick Radel
Nico Ramos
Thomas Ramos
Anthony Ramos
Mary Rawcliffe
Paul Ray
Daniel Reade
Kristine Rivera
Carrie Robson '88
Lizbeth Rodas
Cynthia Rogers
Deborah Rolince
Lisa Romano
Carl Rose
Kelleyann Royce-Giron
Sabrina Sadowski

Kimberly Salamida
 Elma Samardzic
 Kathryn Schmitt
Wendy Seifried '77
 Jayana Shah
 Teresa Shepard
 Bryan Shepardson
 Jaimee Shipley
 Chinita Slade
 Michelle Slater
 George Smith, Jr.
 Kristin Smith
 Vincent Soldacki
 Marc Soto
 Mary Spadaccini
 Tricia Spina
 Dominick Spinella
 Chazity Stimpson
Nina Stoecke '11
 April Storms
 Steven Stottlar
 Raul Taveras
 Amy Teel
 Temple Beth Joseph
 Three Sisters Spa
 Vicki Tinkler
 Julie Todd
 Robert Tomaino
 Miller Tooley
 Pamela Tracy
 Ember Traino
 Christian Trova
 Sophia Uczen
 Deborah Vanderzell
 Eugene Vautrin
 Janet Vautrin
 Eugene Vautrin

Juan Vazquez
 Christopher Vero
 Victory Apparel
 Lori Vink
 Jarad Vollkommer
 Mary Walla
 Kimberly Wayman
 Frank Wayman
Bonnie Wezalis '92
 Jody Wheet
 Richard Whipple
 Brendan White
 Kathryn Whitney
 Brittany Wigand
 Jeannell Wilson
 Clare Woods
 Paul Wyatt
 Jill Yakey
 Nicole Yeomans
 Julie Young
 Kathryn Young
 Donald Young
 Meghan Zarecki
 Robert Zaunczkowski
Stanley Zysk '77
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 Herkimer County Hunger
 Coalition
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 Center #6038
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PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Mr. & Mrs. Steven J. Altieri '78	JCAD Corp.
Ronald Castor '78	Charles King
Thomas Disonell	NYE Automotive Group
CNY Community Foundation	The Sunshine Lady Foundation
Cogar Foundation	SUNY Impact Foundation
D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP	Keith Tucci '91
Curtis Francisco '72	Mark Tucci '91
Herkimer College Professional Association	W2LS Corp.



Current as of December 31, 2020

If you made a donation from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 and were inadvertently omitted from this list, please accept our sincere apologies and notify the Herkimer County College Foundation Office at 315-574-4015 to ensure records are updated.

Herkimer FOUNDATION

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Assists Grant Supports Students

In Spring 2020, the Herkimer County College Foundation, Inc., announced the creation of a new grant to help financially struggling students.

Called HCCF Assists, the grant program awards up to \$500 to eligible students to ensure they can continue their education, whether they need funds for technology for remote learning, emergency transportation, housing costs, or other necessities.

The grant began with \$5,000 of Foundation funds, and then relied on community donations for additional funding. By the end of Fall 2020, the Foundation was able to raise and distribute \$25,000 to students via the HCCF Assists grant, according to HCCF Director Robert Fowler.

Thanks to a fundraising match from the State University of New York, the HCCF Assists grant program received an additional \$25,000 to continue to support students in need as we continue into 2021.

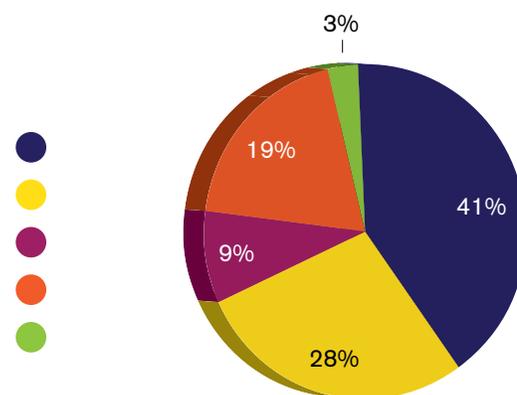
Interested in donating to the HCCF Assists program? To learn more, visit herkimer.edu/give.

Herkimer County Community College Financial Report

The numbers shown are from the unrestricted fund only, for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2020.

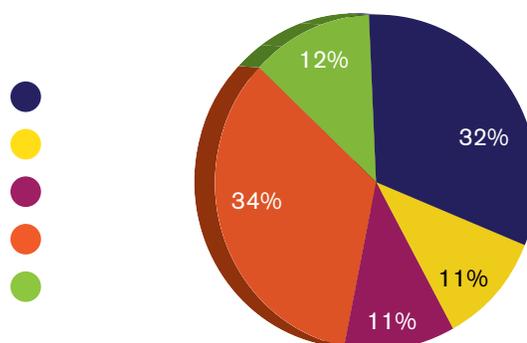
REVENUES

Tuition and Fees	\$	8,689,245
State Appropriation	\$	5,919,810
Sponsor Contribution	\$	1,830,612
Operating Chargebacks	\$	4,105,752
Other Revenues	\$	664,149
Total:	\$	21,209,568



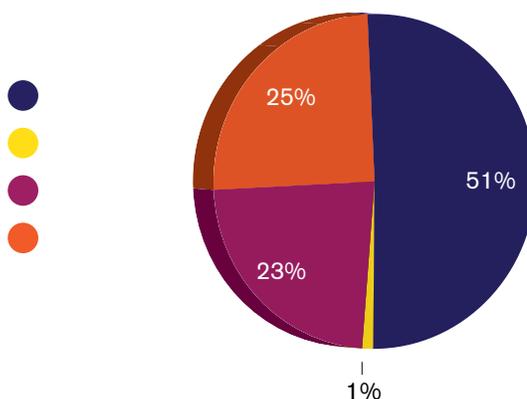
EXPENDITURES by Function

Instruction	\$	6,649,037
Academic Support	\$	2,344,840
Student Services	\$	2,311,493
Institutional Support	\$	6,875,952
Operation & Maintenance	\$	2,423,512
Total:	\$	20,604,834



EXPENDITURES by Object

Personal Services	\$	10,521,970
Equipment	\$	16,752
Contractual Expenses	\$	4,763,209
Employee Benefits	\$	5,302,903
Total:	\$	20,604,834



HERKCares

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act authorized colleges to award emergency grants to students experiencing financial hardship for expenses directly related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

Eligible Herkimer College students included those who attended the Spring 2020

semester and met specific criteria. Allowable expenses included food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care. As of November 18, 2020, Herkimer County Community College expended all of the grant funding from the CARES Act. A total of 531 students were awarded funds totaling \$761,037.

RANDOLPH BAKER

Granted Emeritus Status

The College Board of Trustees honored **Associate Professor Randolph Baker** by granting him emeritus status upon his retirement in August 2020. Baker was the Computer Science program lead faculty member, and taught computer science and related courses throughout his 17-year tenure at Herkimer. He also developed a science lab course in robotics and worked on many unique curricular proposals, such as an interdisciplinary video gaming curriculum with faculty from multiple discipline areas.

Baker served on a variety of committees and the Academic Senate, and was the advisor to the Phi Beta Lambda Club. He was a New York State chairperson for that organization, responsible for organizing all the chapters within the state and representing their interest to the national organization.



In recognition of his retirement and service to the College, Baker was selected by his peers to represent the faculty as macebearer at the 2020 Commencement.



Welcome New Trustee

Daniel B. Reardon '75, of Little Falls, New York, was appointed by the Herkimer County Legislature to the Herkimer County Community College Board of Trustees.

Reardon has had a lifelong commitment to law enforcement, from his early role as sheriff of Herkimer County to working as the national incident management system coordinator at the New York State Office of Homeland Security. He most recently served as liaison between the National Center for Security & Preparedness and the Oriskany, New York-based State Preparedness

Training Center for the State University of New York at Albany.

Reardon was honored with a proclamation by the U.S. House of Representatives recognizing his contributions to Herkimer County, was given the Distinguished Service Award by the Society of Professional Investigators, and won the Golden Anniversary Chancellor's Recognition Award by the State University of New York for his leadership and commitment to the people of New York state.

The appointment brings Reardon full circle, as he graduated from Herkimer College in 1975 with an associate degree in social science. He also holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY Cortland and a master's degree in education from Marywood College in Pennsylvania.

Employee Accolades

Employees Recognized for Service

Each year, we celebrate the service of our full-time employees who have (or will have) completed 10, 20, 30, 40, and 45 years of service to the College. Congratulations to the following for their recent anniversaries of service!

10 years

Joshua Belisle

Lisa Calli

Jason Korniat '95

William Stack

Stephen Sydoriw

Robert Woudenberg

20 years

Aaron Alford '93

Tabitha Carter '98

John Cook

Leslie Cornish

Steven Mezik

Amber Minosh

30 years

Rebecca Alford '90

Robert Gassmann

Marjorie Moore

Annette Yauney

40 years

Lisa Lamanna-

Johnson '80

45 years

Lisa Holynski

CONGRATULATIONS!

Faculty Promotions

The following faculty received promotions in rank, effective September 1, 2020. Congratulations!

- **Grace Ashline**, Instructor to Assistant Professor, Human Services
- **Steve Mezik**, Associate Professor to Professor, Biology
- **Jeffery Steele '90**, Associate Professor to Professor, History

Staff Promotions

- **PJ Anadio '02**, promoted from Technical Assistant-Athletics to Coordinator of Athletics & Physical Education, September 1, 2019
- **Frank Drapalski**, promoted from Technology Support Technician to Systems Programmer/Analyst, June 19, 2020
- **Michael Celi**, promoted from part-time Audio-Visual Support Technician to Technology Support Technician, July 17, 2020

Best Wishes to our Retirees

- **Lisa Lamanna-Johnson '80**, Office Assistant II, May 31, 2020
- **Randolph Baker**, Associate Professor, Business/Computer, August 31, 2020
- **Virginia Clapp '88**, Office Assistant II, August 31, 2020
- **Bonnie Wezalis '92**, Office Assistant II, August 31, 2020

New Employee Appointments

- **Taylor Manley '17**, Public Relations Coordinator (part-time), September 30, 2019
- **Kaitlyn LaPolla**, Counselor (part-time), Advisement/Counseling Center, October 30, 2019
- **Tiara Mitchell**, Advisement Center Specialist, November 1, 2019
- **Amanda Talaba**, Professional (part-time), November 11, 2019
- **Matthew Jodway '19**, Campus Safety Officer, December 3, 2019
- **Michael Celi**, Audio/Visual Support Tech (part-time), December 9, 2019
- **Roger Morczek**, Building Maintenance Helper, January 2, 2020
- **Gillian Perry '17**, Embedded Tutoring Program Assistant/Lead Embedded Tutor (part-time), January 21, 2020
- **Jeremy Pietruch**, Academic Support Center Specialist-Math, February 3, 2020
- **Dylan Mureness '16**, Building Maintenance Helper, March 30, 2020
- **Elaha Noori '19**, Professional (part-time), Information Technology, June 1, 2020
- **Madeline Snyder**, College Prevention Coordinator for Alcohol & Substance Abuse, June 15, 2020
- **Jessicca Bacher**, Advisement Center Specialist, July 22, 2020
- **Steven Boucher**, Assistant Professor of Business, August 31, 2020

Facts & Figures

Enrollment (Fall 2019):

Total Headcount	2,601
Full-Time	48%
Part-Time	52%

Campus:

Herkimer campus	44%
Internet Academy (100% online)	20%
College Now (Concurrent Enrollment)	33%
P-TECH (Early College High School)	1%
Mohawk Correctional Facility	2%

Gender:

Female	58%
Male	42%

Age:

24 and under	79%
Over 24	21%

Residency:

In-state	94.6%
Out-of-state	2.3%
International (21 countries)	3.0%
Military	0.1%

Race/Ethnicity:

American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian	1.7%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Black or African American	11.2%
Hispanic/Latino	5.3%
Non-Resident Alien	3.0%
Two or More Races	1.0%
Unreported	3.9%
White	73.3%

Top 10 Counties for Enrollment – Fall 2019:

Herkimer	30.8%
Oneida	17.8%
Montgomery	4.5%
Otsego	3.4%
Queens	3.3%
Onondaga	3.3%
Kings (Brooklyn)	3.1%
Bronx	3.0%
Suffolk	1.8%
Fulton	1.8%

Top Academic Programs for Enrollment – Fall 2019 (source: IPEDS)

Liberal Arts & Sciences: General Studies, A.A.
 Human Services, A.A.S.
 Business: Business Administration, A.S.
 Liberal Arts & Sciences: Science, A.S.
 Health Professions, A.S.

Percentage of Students Enrolled by Special Population - Fall 2019 (source: IPEDS)

Single Parent 2.4%
 First Generation 12.4%
 Disabled 7.1%
 Pell grant recipient 56.6%

2019–2020 Graduates:

Degrees	349
Certificates	68

Faculty & Staff (Fall 2019):

Full-Time	167
Part-Time (excluding College Now)	109

Student to Faculty Ratio: 18:1

85% of first-time, full-time students (Fall 2019) received some form of **financial aid** (Source: IPEDS)





Herkimer

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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STAY CONNECTED!

Subscribe to our new e-newsletter.

Stay up to date on college news and events with our new alumni e-newsletter. Subscribe at herkimer.edu/alumni-news.

Share Your News and Achievements

Keep your fellow alumni and the Herkimer College community up-to-date with your goings-on and achievements by submitting a class note! Whether you've recently been promoted at work, received an award, started a new business, or had your first child, let us help you stay connected and share your good news.

Class Notes are featured in the annual *Connections* magazine and may lead to a larger feature story or be shared on the College's social media channels. Submit your class notes at herkimer.edu/classnotes.



Alumni Social Hours

We recently hosted a virtual alumni social hour for members of the Alumni Wall of Honor. It was an overwhelming success with attendees suggesting that we host additional events with various groups of alumni. We look forward to providing the virtual venue for additional alumni groups to reunite. Be sure to update your email address with us so you don't miss out! Update your contact info at herkimer.edu/contact.

herkimer.edu/edu

