

Yung Brothers Return Safely from Year-Long Tour of Duty in Iraq

Identical twin brothers Benjamin and Richard Yung of Herkimer, 2003 graduates of Herkimer County Community College, recently returned safely after serving for a year with the U.S. Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom II, stationed in Tikrit, Iraq. Members of the U.S. Army Reserves Unit 1019th Quartermaster Company, Mattydale, since the age of 17, the brothers, now 23, thought it was only natural to sign up together when their unit was called up for deployment. "We volunteered to go together," Rich said, "but our mother was pulling her hair out, afraid she'd lose us both." The Yungs



Brothers complete tour of duty—Richard and Benjamin Yung, 2003 graduates of Herkimer County Community College, pose for a photo during their tour of duty in Iraq. They returned safely this February.

had to sign a waiver to allow them to be deployed together. "Mom respected our decision to go together, and our dad and sister kept reassuring her that we'd be o.k.," Ben said.

The Yungs have always done things together. They both enrolled in the Liberal Arts & Sciences: General Studies program at HCCC, and for most of their time at Herkimer, had identical schedules. This fall they will return to their studies at SUC at Oswego, where both are majoring in English, again taking the same schedule, "so we can share books and save money," Ben said.

While in Iraq, the men worked at opposite ends of the base, which they compared in size to the village of Herkimer. They'd usually see each other once a day and would try to spend days off together. "We saw each other about twenty minutes a day," Ben said. Rich worked in food distribution,

while Ben dealt with warehousing equipment. They performed humanitarian missions, bringing boxes of school supplies and hygiene products to local schools. "We were lucky we had major jobs on the base," Rich said. "It made the time go by faster." The twins said time was their worst enemy during their tour of duty. "We tried to make the best of the situation," Rich said, adding that the comfort of

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Yung Brothers cont.

having his twin with him was a big help. "One day you can be the richest guy in the world, and the next day you're fighting in Iraq," Rich said. "It puts everything in perspective. Walking down the street in Iraq, the children were drawn to us. I'd give them a piece of candy, and it became their best day ever," he added.

Ben said "I'm very grateful for the freedom we have here. It's a big sacrifice for the soldier and the soldier's family to go to war. We just want people to support the soldiers—going to war is our job." He said his experience in Iraq has helped him appreciate the freedom we enjoy in the United States. "Walking down the street safely here at home is taken for granted," he said. Rich said they were 20 minutes from Baghdad, and when traveling from base to base, had mini rockets shot at them.

The Yungs described the heat in Iraq as intense, with the temperature reaching 130 degrees daily. Once the sun went down, the temperature would drop to 70. They also recalled sandstorms where the entire sky would turn orange. "The heat was so strong that sunscreen would melt off you," Rich said. "You had to be covered. The bulletproof vests we wore added 20 lbs." Ben said the soldiers "took it day-by-day," drank a lot of bottled water and had water balloons and squirt guns for fun. They also used the on-base gym to stay busy and keep in shape.

The Yungs missed what they

called "guilty pleasures"—watching television, talking to friends on cell phones, etc. Rich said "they had a big screen TV in a cafeteria but it was always on CNN—we didn't want to watch it—we were living it!"

Both men were promoted from specialists to sergeants on the same day, September 16, 2004 while in Tikrit, Iraq. They received the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with MDevice and an Army Service Ribbon.

The Yungs said their family and friends were very supportive of them during their time in Iraq, and thanked everyone, including those from HCCC, who sent care packages, letters, emails, etc.

The sons of Teresa and Kong-Ting Yung of Herkimer, the brothers' parents and older sister Bonnie (Assistant to the Director of Student Activities at HCCC) were thrilled when Rich and Ben arrived home safely in February. "When we saw the snow, we knew we were in Central New York!" Rich said.

Since their return, they have been working a variety of jobs including helping at the family business, House Yung Chinese restaurant on South Washington Street in Herkimer. Both are waiters at the Claxton Manor independent living unit of Folts Home in Herkimer, and run the evening hours at HCCC's student lounge in Alumni Hall. They also work as gate guards for the student housing units located adjacent to Herkimer's campus.

"Going back to college this fall will be like a vacation," Ben said. A well deserved one.

Career Center Offers New Service

The Career Center at Herkimer County Community College offers a new free service to alumni, students and employers. Job Postings with EASE is an effective way for job seekers and employers to connect via the internet.

Alumni and students can search the database to locate full-time, part-time or internship positions, upload resumes and apply for positions on-line.

Employers enjoy free, unlimited job postings to specifically recruit HCCC alumni and students. Go to www.herkimer.edu/ease to register for this service.

For additional information or questions regarding career services, contact Suzanne M. Paddock, Counselor at (315) 866-0300, ext. 8284.

Join the Business Wall

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

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

Reunion Policy

If you would like to have a reunion and need information please contact the Alumni Office at (315) 866-0300, ext. 8259. The requirements below must be met before any information is provided.

1. Must be a graduate of HCCC

2. Preferably be an active paid alum
3. Must submit your request in writing
4. Must outline in your letter what your intentions are
5. Must affiliate the Alumni Association with the reunion

House Named 2005 Alumnus of the Year

Mary E. (Dingman) House, Paralegal ('78), was selected as the College's 2005 **Alumnus of the Year**. House was recognized at HCCC's 37th annual Commencement exercises held on-campus in May.



Mary E. House

The **Alumnus of the Year** award recipient is selected by the College Alumni Board from a list of nominees who have demonstrated the highest level of excellence in their professional field.

Following graduation from HCCC, House worked for two years for the NYS Education Department as a paralegal in the Office of Counsel. She then went on to earn her doctor of jurisprudence from Albany Law School in 1984. From 1985 through 1996 she held a number of county and state positions and maintained a private practice. House is currently the Bureau Chief for the Civil Recoveries Bureau in the NYS Attorney General's Office.

Her supervisor, Patricia Martinelli, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, said "the importance of her work cannot be overestimated, especially in these times of severe budget constraints."

The Herkimer County Community College Alumni Association commended House for her outstanding professional achievements.

House resides in Ballston Lake, NY with her husband and two children.

Alumnus Speaks On Life's Challenges

"Being blind is the best thing to happen to me," Herkimer County Community College alumnus Robert Wheeler said with a smile. A 1999 Paralegal graduate, Wheeler is currently attending Albany Law School. He returned to HCCC recently to speak to a class on the "Challenges of Life."

Wheeler's blindness was a result of complications from juvenile diabetes. A former business owner and self-proclaimed workaholic, Wheeler started looking at college campuses soon after going blind. He was told by many admission counselors that it would be impossible for him to get a degree at their institution.

When he came to Herkimer County Community College, the Learning Center staff gave him a tour and said the College would procure any special equipment he needed to complete his coursework. Wheeler used a scanner and an adaptive device called JAWS (Job Access with Speech) screen reader to "read" his textbooks, which spoke the printed material from the computer screen.

"The assistance I received at HCCC from The Learning Center, the convenient layout of the campus, and the faculty and staff being in tune with my needs made it possible for me to get my Paralegal degree in a year and a half," Wheeler said. He transferred to Utica College, graduating in May 2001 with a business management degree. Wheeler hopes to become a tax attorney.

"I was a blue collar worker who graduated from Laurens High School without dreams of higher education," he said. Knowing that his chronic condition would progress and worsen, he enjoyed life by working on cars, getting married, becoming a father, owning his own business. Only when he lost his eyesight and the ability to make a living with his own hands, did he consider college.

(see Wheeler, p. 4)

Alumni Association President/Board

President: Laurie Duguay Jones '87

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

WANTED:

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

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

www.herkimer.edu/alumni

Wheeler (cont. from p. 3)

Wheeler's desire to do something positive and creative kept him looking for just the right place where he would fit in as a student. HCCC was that place. He tried out for the bowling team, making it to the final cut. More importantly, Wheeler said, "The coursework at HCCC was the most challenging and thorough" of all the law classes he has taken thus far. Wheeler feels this academic foundation, coupled with the aid and acceptance that he found at HCCC, have made his dream of becoming a lawyer a possibility. Wheeler said "Being blind may have changed my career choice, but HCCC made me feel like anything is possible."

CLASS NOTES

Class of 1977

Michael Quick, West Chester, PA married Laura in 1983. The couple has two children, Dan, 16 and Amanda, 12. Quick is the owner of Quick Merchant Solutions.

Class of 1978

Gradin V. Avery, Cortland, NY was recently named associate provost for enrollment management at SUNY Cortland. Avery had been interim associate provost for enrollment and curriculum management since April 2004.



In his new position, he supervises 20 classified and 28 professional staff in the offices of Admissions, Advisement and Transition, Financial Aid and Registrar. He joined SUNY Cortland in 1995 as director of admissions.

Following graduation from HCCC, Avery earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from SUNY Albany and a

master's in counseling services from SUNY Oswego.

He and his wife Clare have three children, Amy, Thomas and Michael.

Class of 1980

Jan Rosenthal Frederick, Clifton Springs, NY and her family have taken over operation of her husband's parents' farm. She and her husband have six children, ages 5-28 years, and two grandchildren, a two-year-old and a five-month-old. They live on the family farm.

Class of 1981

Randall Klein, Richfield Springs, NY is working as a freelance costume designer, designing in various regional and New York City theaters. He recently designed the costumes for the Off-Broadway hit, Awesome 80's Prom.

Robin Crister Prinzhorn, Phoenix, AZ is president/owner of Cheyenne Marketing Services, LLC and is a member of the Society for Marketing Professional Services. Prinzhorn is the vice-president on the Board of Directors for the Red Rocks Music Festival. She married David Prinzhorn in 2003, and they have two dogs, Madison and Nikki.

Class of 1982

Dr. Lisa (Burks) Barrow, Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada recently received her Doctor of Management degree in organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix. Dr. Barrow has written a book entitled "A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Study of Philanthropic Leadership." Philanthropic Leadership was created by Dr. Barrow as a leadership approach which seeks to bring a sense of humanness into the workplace.

Class of 1986

Brenda Wagner Lamouvet, Cherry Valley, NY married David Lamouvet on November 27, 2004. David's children, Erin, Collin and Hannah reside with them.

Class of 1989

Julie Stanburg-Fernald Sliski, Oriskany, NY married Stephen Sliski on June 28, 2002. She has two children, Kourtnee Fernald, 12-years-old, and Justin Fernald, 10-years-old. Sliski has a new job as a third grade A.I.S. reading teacher at Mt. Markham Elementary School.

Class of 1996

Heather Bishop-Dumka, Franklin, NH has been appointed to the New Hampshire State March of Dimes Board. She and her family became involved with the March of Dimes after their son, Josh, was born six weeks premature.

Class of 1997

Thomas Sykes, Smithtown, NY is currently a sergeant with the NYPD. He earned a B.A. in history and an M.A. in law from Hofstra University. He is engaged to be married on June 4, 2005.

Class of 1998

Karen Wolcott DePerno, Verona Beach, NY married Louis DePerno on September 18, 2004.

Class of 2000

Timothy Dunn, Albany, NY was promoted to Director of Human Services Programs in the Office of Governor George E. Pataki. He is handling daily oversight of six state agencies as well as the Governor's mental hygiene legislative and budget portfolios. He has been on the Governor's staff for two years.

Leah Korce, Mohawk, NY is currently enrolled at Vermont Law School, with a focus on legislation/government and a slight focus on education law.

Class of 2004

Adam Mahoney, Pattersonville, NY is pursuing a bachelor's degree at SUC at Plattsburgh.

Keshana Owens, Blasdell, NY recently obtained the position of mental health specialist at Baker Victory Services. This position enables her to motivate youth who are troubled and those diagnosed with disabilities.

In Memoriam

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

John Skaly ('71), Utica, NY died January 12, 2004.

Thomas E. "Tom" Lester ('76) formerly of Ilion and Oneida Lake, NY died April 7, 2005 at the Presbyterian Home, New Hartford.

Jamie (Laura) Carter ('90), Ilion, NY died unexpectedly January 28, 2005 at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester. She had been employed as the office manager at Dr. Anthony Angelichio's dental office for the past 20 years.

Mary Theresa Urich ('91), Mohawk, NY died March 3, 2005 at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, following a long illness. She had been employed as a switchboard operator at a resort in Key Largo, Florida and also at MDS and Momentum Industries in Herkimer.

Kristine M. Draper ('04), Clinton, NY died January 23, 2005 after a long illness. The HCCC campus honored her in March 2004 with a special commencement ceremony, presenting her with the Associate in Applied Science degree in physical therapist assistant.

Melissa Dykeman ('05), Salisbury Center, NY died April 26, 2005 after a long illness. She was honored by HCCC in a special commencement ceremony held April 4, 2005, at which time she was presented with the Associate in Applied Science degree in early childhood.

Bruce Bielecki, Schenectady, NY Manager of Training and Workforce Development at Herkimer County Community College, died unexpectedly on January 22, 2005.

Marx Q. Cristman, Herkimer, NY husband of HCCC founding Board of Trustee member Bess Cristman, died April 8, 2005 in Little Falls Hospital at the age of 95. He enjoyed a long career practicing law in Herkimer.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in Marx's memory to the Cristman Scholarship Fund through the Herkimer County College Foundation, (315) 866-0300, ext. 8259 or email schellmk@herkimer.edu.

Harold (Squeak) Robertson, 81, Ilion, NY and Bradenton, Florida died April 12, 2005. Squeak was retired from Herkimer County Community College, where he was director of buildings and grounds. He wintered in Florida for the last 19 years.

The Community Independence Day Celebration

will be held on the HCCC campus Thursday, June 30 beginning at 4:30 p.m. with a chicken barbecue. Join us for live music (5-9:30 p.m.), Cogar Gallery art show reception (4-6 p.m.) and a spectacular fireworks display at dusk. The Hannaford food court opens at 5 p.m.

Bring the family for an evening of fun! (Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the HCCC campus.)

Graduate Survey Winners Announced

Herkimer County Community College has announced the winners of the 2003 Graduate Follow-Up Survey drawing.

Lynnae Kettler and Jared Keller were randomly selected from all 2003 graduates who completed this survey, and were each awarded a GE Surround Sound home theater system with DVD player.

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

The Class of 2003 had a fantastic turnout with 78% of their graduates taking the time to complete the short survey. Graduates of the Class of 2004 should receive their survey this spring, and will be entered in the next prize drawing.

Upcoming Events — Family/Homecoming Weekend: October 28-30, 2005

**29th Herkimer County
Arts & Crafts Fair:
November 12 & 13, 2005**

Would You Like to Host a Regional Alumni Event?

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

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

Contact the Alumni Association at 315-866-0300, ext. 8259 or email casaleva@herkimer.edu.

Former Basketball Coach Alofs Authors Book Highlighting Experiences and Techniques

Jack Alofs, former Herkimer County Community College faculty member and basketball coach, has released a book, "Jack Plus 5: Secrets, Strategies, Experiences and Fundamentals in Coaching Winning Basketball." In his book, Alofs shares his coaching techniques and strategies, as well as many human interest stories about his experiences coaching high school and college basketball.

A native of Gloversville, NY, Alofs has a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Master's degree in Administration from St. Lawrence University. He coached at St. Johnsville and Spencerport High Schools before getting hired at HCCC in 1971, where he taught physical education and coached basketball until his retirement in 1991.

During his 20 years at the College, Alofs achieved a record of 391-155, a 72 percent winning percentage. Highlights of his career include a fourth place finish in the National Junior College Division I Basketball Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas, where Jimmy Smith of Herkimer was the tournament's Most Valuable Player, and a Division III Junior College National Basketball Championship. Alofs was twice named New York State Junior College Coach of the Year, and was inducted into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame in 2000.

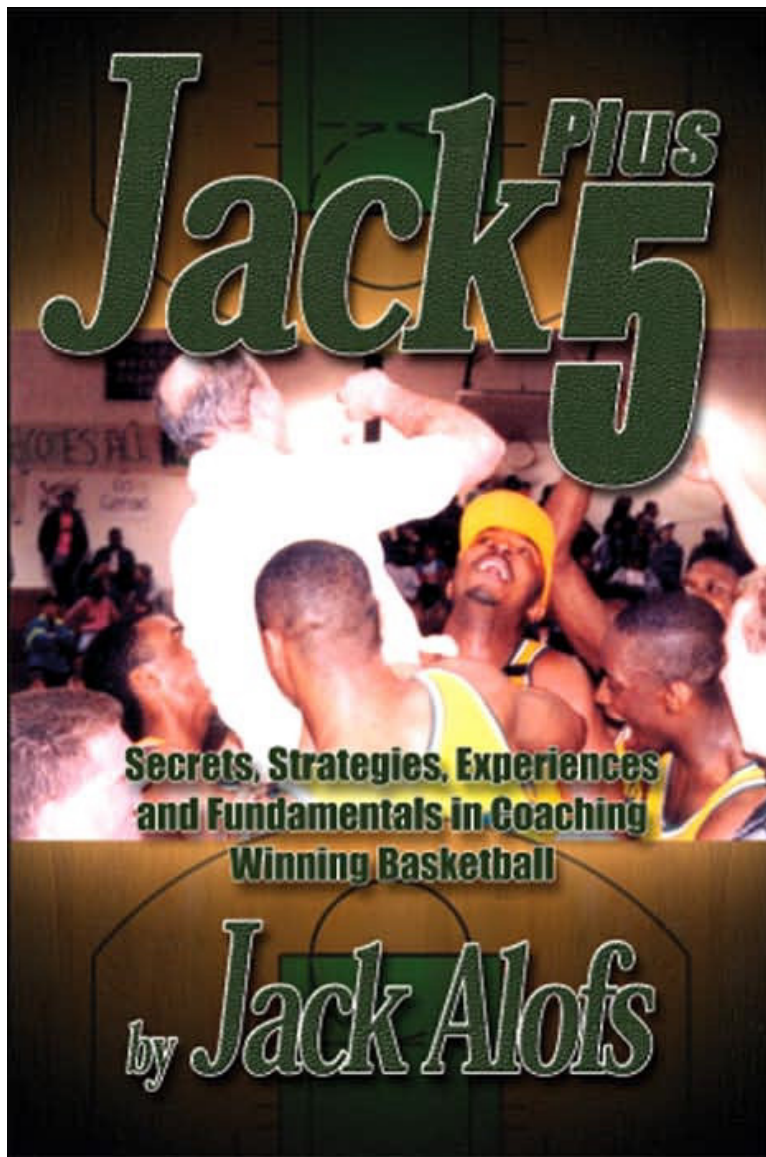
The book, which took about three years to complete, is on sale at the HCCC Bookstore, Barnes and Noble, and online at www.authorhouse.com. Although the book is intended to help coaches and players, the stories and memoirs make it a great read for anyone interested in basketball, especially the fans of former HCCC teams. A

testament to Alofs and his book are endorsements from Jim Boeheim, Head Coach Syracuse Basketball, and P.J. Carlesimo, Assistant Coach San Antonio Spurs.

Alofs has three grown children and lives in New Hartford, NY with his wife Marguerite. He said the entire process was hard work, but was also a lot of fun. "I worked with a lot of great kids at HCCC, and writing this book helped me relive a lot of memories."

When asked about what makes a great coach, Alofs said "The whole secret to coaching is having a good rapport with your players. They don't need to love you, but they need to respect you and play hard for you." One only needs to look at the record books to know that Alofs had the respect of a lot of HCCC players over the years.

Former players wishing to contact Coach Alofs, may do so by calling him at (315) 735-3880.



Reminder

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

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

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

Family/Homecoming Weekend and 2005 Commencement



Lacrosse Fans Unite— Alumni, parents and fans get a sneak peak at the 2004-05 men's lacrosse team at the annual Green & Gold game.



Alumni Association Ice Cream Social— Alumni Association Vice-President Cynthia Gabriel ('87) prepares a sundae for a student at the Homecoming Weekend Ice Cream Social sponsored by the HCCC Alumni Association.



Crowds gather following the 2005 commencement exercises. HCCC graduated 558 students. (above)



Meeting with Families—HCCC Dean of Students Dr. Matthew Haves talks with parents, students and alumni during Homecoming Weekend's Ice Cream Social.



Lacrosse Reception—HCCC President Ronald F. Williams (left) and men's lacrosse coach Scott Barnard talk with alumni at the lacrosse reception held during Homecoming Weekend.



Newest Alums—2005 graduates Annette Rock, Brandi Ostrander and Marissa Richute pose for a photo following the commencement exercises held May 20th on the HCCC campus.

Champions: A Campaign for Wehrum Stadium

Champions: A Campaign for Wehrum Stadium is coming to a close. This may be your last chance to be a part of this campaign to honor Herkimer County Community College's legendary lacrosse coach Paul Wehrum.

Donors have the opportunity to purchase commemorative bricks. The engraved bricks will be placed together in HCCC's new stadium complex. Bricks may be engraved with up to three lines of 20 characters each.



HCCC's new artificial turf field.

Bricks may be purchased for \$1,000 each. The amount may be paid in full or pledged over a four-year period. Checks and credit card payments can be made to the Herkimer County College Foundation. Your gift is completely tax deductible. Any size gift will be greatly appreciated and significant in reaching our \$250,000 goal. For more information contact the Herkimer County College Foundation at (315) 866-0300, ext. 8259 or email schellmk@herkimer.edu.

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www.herkimer.edu/alumni

6/05

ALUMNI UPDATE

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

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

Name _____ Class of ' _____
Last First Maiden

Address _____
Street City State Zip

County _____ Phone _____ Date of Birth _____
Area Code

email _____

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

ALUMNI DUES

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

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