



Herkimer  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

# Connections

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Herkimer College

2024



## In this issue:

Esports Excitement

Capital Projects Announced

Assisting Students ASAP

Celebrating 50 Years of  
Herkimer Baseball

Annual Report 2022–2023



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L to R: Trustees Michael Stalteri, Isabella Crandall, Joan Prymas, Dan Reardon '75

*Connections* is an annual publication of Herkimer College that is distributed to alumni and friends.

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On the cover:  
Esports has taken off at Herkimer College with an NJCAA team, a new major in Esports Management, and a state-of-the-art esports center. Pictured are Coach Josh Lanza with teammates and twin brothers Joseph (left) and William Hazzard. Story is on pages 4–5.

## Herkimer County Community College

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After serving as a College trustee for five years, it is an honor to now serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees alongside newly elected Vice Chairman Dan Reardon and Secretary Joan Prymas. On behalf of

the Board, I extend sincere congratulations and appreciation to Isabella Crandall, who served as chairwoman for eight years, and I look forward to her continued service as a trustee.

With new Board leadership and a search for the fifth president of Herkimer College underway, this past year has been one of change and uncertainty for many. The Board is particularly grateful for the tremendous involvement, support, and patience everyone has shown.

At the time of writing this message, the presidential search and approval process remains in progress. SUNY and Chancellor King are working through the SUNY approval process, and the Board anticipates an announcement to be made by early spring. In the meantime, we have great confidence in the administration, faculty and staff continuing to move forward with many new and exciting initiatives.

With more than 25,000 alumni living and working in all corners of the world, we look forward to strengthening our alumni relations and creating deeper, more meaningful connections with you and between you. If you wish to become more involved, we look forward to hearing from you. For those who are currently active, thank you for your support of Herkimer College and the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Stalteri Sr.  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



It has been a privilege to serve as officer-in-charge since last May. I appreciate the support of the College Board of Trustees, Herkimer County Legislature, SUNY officials, community partners, donors, and our committed faculty and staff as we work together to stay competitive and fulfill our mission. Despite the challenges facing institutions of higher education, this is an exciting time with many opportunities on the horizon for Herkimer College.

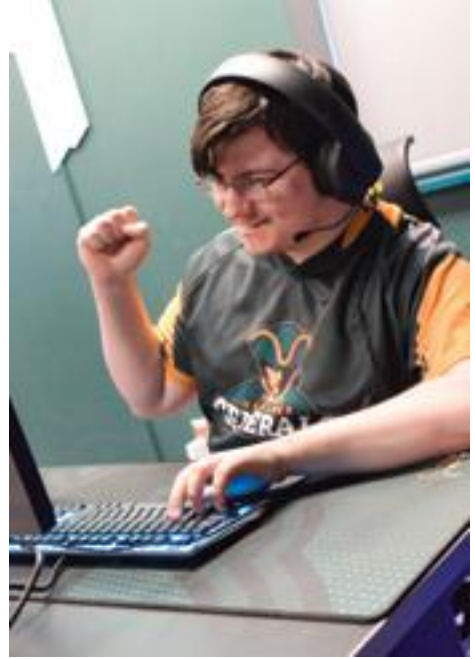
In this issue, you will read about two exciting new facilities that have great potential for students and the community – our Law Enforcement Training Center and state-of-the-art Esports Center. We also recently upgraded classrooms with modern, ergonomic furniture and launched new programs – Advancing Success in Associate Pathways and Refresh & Restart, both designed to increase student success.

Moving forward, we are excited to plan a major capital project to update and improve campus facilities and infrastructure (see page 6). The project will make a positive, significant impact on our campus, the student experience, and the community.

In closing, I wish to thank all who have supported Herkimer College and our students this year. Whether you've made a donation, attended an event, or referred a new student to us, we appreciate your interest and support. Go HERK!

Sincerely,

Nicholas F. Laino  
Officer-in-Charge and Sr. Vice President for Administration and Finance



## GET IN THE GAME with Esports Management A.A.S.

The cutting-edge Esports Management A.A.S. program made its debut in the fall of 2023 along with the unveiling of our state-of-the-art Esports Center to a buzzing crowd of community and campus leaders this past November. The program and facility are true game-changers and a leap into the future of esports management.

Esports, which involves professional or semi-professional competitive gaming in an organized format, is a billion-dollar industry and has seen tremendous growth in recent years, both in terms of viewership and revenue. As a result, the need for managers to support this industry is also projected to increase.

According to Insider Intelligence, in the year 2022, there were 532 million esports viewers worldwide. The industry has seen a huge increase in investment from venture capitalists and private equity firms. These investments are distributed to players, tournament operators, and digital broadcasters.

**The degree program will enable graduates to enter the workforce upon graduation or continue their education at a four-year college or university.**

Graduates can expect to find employment in events management, broadcasting, facilities, game day management and operations, public relations, marketing, and sales.

According to Herkimer College Business Professor Steven Boucher, not only is the program exclusive, but it's also versatile.

“What’s unique about our program is that it not only prepares students in esports management, event planning, and sports governance, but it provides learners with a critical business foundation, providing for unlimited opportunities.”

Herkimer College has been following the esports trend, creating the Generals esports athletic program in 2020. The College is one of approximately 81 institutions nationwide competing in the National Junior College Athletic Association Esports (NJCAA), comprised of over 600 specific teams and 1,500 plus student-athletes nationwide. In the five seasons of competition, Herkimer College’s esports team has won a national championship in *Call of Duty Gunfight*, as well as three top-four finishes and a top-eight in various gaming disciplines.

“I am beyond excited to have this academic program in conjunction with our rapidly growing esports team,” said **Joshua Lanza '12**, esports coach and academic specialist. “I look forward to working with our students not only as their coach but also as their teacher in the classroom. By including Esports Management as a recognized major, we are showing the community that there is so much more to esports than just playing video games. It’s amazing to see my alma mater get on the cutting edge of such a burgeoning field.”

The new Esports Center, located in the College’s Technology Center, features new gaming machines and consoles. The Center is also engineered with ADA-compliant Spectrum Esports Evolution desks, digital displays, and other gamer-ready technology and support.

“We are extremely proud of this amazing facility,” Officer-in-Charge Nicholas F. Laino remarked at the ribbon cutting. “And this is only the start. We have plans for phase two of this project, expanding to accommodate many more gaming stations and a gallery for fans to watch the competitions.”

To learn more about the program, visit [Herkimer.edu/esportsmgmt](http://Herkimer.edu/esportsmgmt).



### Herkimer Generals Esports Invitational: Super Smash Bros Ultimate Showdown

Saturday, April 6, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.,  
Herkimer College Recreation Gym

Open to Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Otsego, Onondaga, and additional Upstate county high schools.

- ~ Standard Smash Crew Battle Rules
- ~ Trophies and Prizes Awarded
- ~ Lunch Provided
- ~ Tours of our new Esports Center available

For more info or to register, contact Coach Josh Lanza by March 23, 2024, at [lanzajj@herkimer.edu](mailto:lanzajj@herkimer.edu).



# Campus Facilities to Undergo Major Capital Improvements

**PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A 24-MILLION-DOLLAR CAPITAL PROJECT TO UPDATE AND IMPROVE CAMPUS FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH 50 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS COMING FROM HERKIMER COUNTY AND 50 PERCENT FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK.**

**The seven projects are as follows:**

## Baseball Field Replacement

The current baseball field has been in use for more than 20 years. Poor drainage issues routinely make the surface unplayable, requiring games to be played at other venues. Replacement of the field will result in a new state-of-the-art ball field with a dependable surface, providing opportunities for the College to host a variety of national, regional, and local tournaments and recruitment events.

## Softball Field Replacement

The current softball field is also approximately 20 years old and has poor drainage issues. The new field will be located behind Wehrum Stadium, providing athlete and spectator access to locker rooms and restrooms. These improvements, as well as lighting, will expand tournament and recruitment opportunities.

## Locker Room Renovations

The original 1970 men's and women's locker rooms will be rebuilt to current standards enhancing the appearance and functionality in support of all sports teams.

## Athletic Training Room Renovations

The athletic training room will be updated to enhance functionality and meet the ever-growing demands for athletic training services.

## Physical Education Building Roof Replacement

The PE Building roof is original to the building and is in failing condition.

## Roads and Parking Lot Reconstruction

The main parking lot is experiencing severe asphalt deterioration and poor stormwater runoff. Reconstruction of the parking lot and roads will greatly improve pedestrian and vehicle safety and stormwater management.

## Technology Center Chiller Replacement

The original chiller was installed in 1990, has undergone repeated major repairs, and is at the end of its life. New technology will result in greater efficiencies and lower utility costs with possible energy savings rebates.



men's showers



men's team room



men's team room



PE building roof



women's locker room

"We are excited about the new and renovated athletic facilities as they will create many new opportunities for Herkimer College in terms of hosting events and student recruitment. Though infrastructure projects are not as exciting, they are critically necessary for the health and safety of our students and campus community.

We are very grateful for the generous support from the Herkimer County Legislature. These projects will make a positive, significant impact on our campus, the student experience, and the campus community as a whole."

– Officer-in-Charge Nicholas Laino



## New Virtual Reality Simulator to Help Police Officers Train for De-escalation and Crisis Situations

by Rebecca Ruffing

The former television studio in the Technology Center has new residents. The space has been transformed into the College's Law Enforcement Training Center. The Center features a VirTra® virtual reality training system designed for training police officers to respond to active shooter, domestic violence, and other high-stress situations.

**"We're appreciative of this new training tool that will help our cadets develop the best skills and be prepared for the field. I'm also pleased that this tool will be made available to local law enforcement agencies and other organizations to support their training needs as well,"**

Herkimer College Police Academy Program Director Michael Masi shared.

The new VirTra® system will help provide training on areas like de-escalation, use of force, interacting with individuals with mental illness or disabilities, and communication and decision-making. Herkimer's V-300® solution includes five large screens for a 300-degree fully-engaging training environment. Outcomes are based on the actions taken by the police officer in real-time with multiple responses from on-screen persons. The immersive environment recreates psychological stressors like an elevated heart rate and high levels of adrenaline that officers experience during intense training.

Funding to create the dedicated training space and purchase the VirTra® system was obtained through a New York State grant awarded through SUNY to campuses for enrollment initiatives.

In addition to the VirTra® system, the facility has been outfitted with a smartboard interactive flat panel instructional system, as well as safety and security features such as card access technology; a security camera connected to the Campus Safety department's camera system; and gun storage lockers for visiting law enforcement agencies to house live weapons.

More than 400 law enforcement and military locations spanning local police and the federal government use VirTra® to improve judgment, critical thinking, communication skills, and decision making during highly stressful encounters.

### PHASE I PRE-EMPLOYMENT POLICE BASIC TRAINING

Herkimer College offers Phase I Pre-Employment Police Basic Training in partnership with the Little Falls Police Department. This first phase of pre-employment training is open to civilians and sworn police officers as an alternative to the conventional manner of conducting the Basic Course for Police Officers. The program prepares students to begin preparation for a career as a police officer prior to being hired by a law enforcement agency. Five classes have graduated from the program since its inception, with the majority of graduates employed by law enforcement agencies upon graduation. More information about the program is available at [www.herkimer.edu/police](http://www.herkimer.edu/police).





## ‘Malarkey Mondays’ Podcast Provides Serious Hands-on Experience

by Kari Procopio

From newsprint, radio, and television to blogging and social media, the communications and media industry is constantly evolving. Enter the podcast, an immensely popular form of audio content and distribution that is now a permanent fixture in Herkimer College’s Communication and Media A.S. program and its longstanding Radio-TV (RTV) Club.

According to Robert Gassmann, Communication and Media professor, RTV Club advisor, and podcast project creator, the student-podcast experience is a natural step in the evolution of media instruction.

“This is an extension of the creative process we teach in all our courses. Ideas are hatched and brought to existence through pre-production (writing), production (recording), and post-production phases (editing and distribution).

Podcasts are a popular mode of media at the moment, and this group has really sunk their teeth into it.”

The group, comprised exclusively of students, premiered its new podcast series *Malarkey Mondays* this past fall. The amusing, off-beat show is also solely crafted for students.

Communication and Media Professor Blake Pitcher is a co-creator of the podcast as well as an advisor for the College’s student newspaper *The General* and the award-winning arts and literary publication, *Phaethon*.

“I think the spirit of the studio is to make it accessible to any student interested in producing content,” Pitcher said.

“It also provides a way for students to practice their skills in front of the camera, on the microphone, and behind the scenes. Our media programs have a long history of ‘student-powered’ content, and this continues that tradition. I’m excited to see the different podcasts that will be developed as the studio picks up momentum. Our students bring a diverse array of perspectives to the college, and this is an excellent avenue to express themselves.”



Content creation is also a family tradition for Communication and Media student and RTV Club President Michael DeMars, a sophomore from Herkimer. His father, **Ryan DeMars ’98**, graduated from the College’s Radio-Television Broadcasting program and was also a member of the RTV Club.



“We’re a small but close group,” Michael DeMars said of the RTV Club and podcast crew. “We’re all excited about how it’s going.”

DeMars said he plans to transfer to the University at Buffalo after graduation and has his sights set on a career in the film industry. He already has considerable television production experience working as a part-time newscast director for WKTV, a position he secured after graduating from high school.

“Directing a podcast is basically the same. So, I feel like (my television experience) really helps me out with our podcast.”

Herkimer College has a long tradition of communications excellence with over 40 years of instruction in such mediums as radio, television, digital filmmaking, and new media. Gassmann said with the transformation of the program and facilities over the years, they had to get creative in terms of studio space.

“The convergence of those traditional technologies into the digital realm made it possible for us to carve out a small studio in the office area of WVHC-FM where cameras and microphones can capture images and sounds that can be assembled using familiar multimedia software.”

Last October was the 30th anniversary of WVHC Radio 91.5 FM, the only station of its kind in the Mohawk Valley, featuring jazz, blues, and student-powered programming. WVHC was first established 50 years ago as WHCR, a public address system that was only broadcast inside the Robert McLaughlin College Center.

Both the radio station and podcast offer different experiences for audiences, on and off campus. *Malarkey Mondays* co-host Rees Trenholm, a Communication and Media sophomore who is focused on photography and videography, said he is becoming more interested in the medium.



L to R: Students Michael DeMars, Jack Barkett, Sam Walz, and Rees Trenholm in the studio.

“The idea intrigues me more now than it did before, now that I’ve helped produce a podcast,” Trenholm said. “I do like to share ideas, debate, and teach a little; a podcast would be a great medium to do that.”

In addition to Trenholm and DeMars, the podcast crew includes hosts Jack Barkett, Chase Everson, and Sam Walz, content manager Sean Noel, and Club members Heather O’Quin and Lyla Williams.



**For more information on the Communication and Media program, visit [Herkimer.edu/communication](http://Herkimer.edu/communication)**



## PTA Students Achieve 100% Pass Rate on Board Exam

Herkimer College's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) A.A.S. program graduates achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the 2023 National PTA Licensing examination. Ten graduates are now eligible for certification by the NYS Board of Education as physical therapist assistants.

Herkimer's PTA program prepares students, through classroom education and clinical field-work, to be skilled healthcare providers working under the supervision of a physical therapist. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and is one of the College's most competitive and rigorous programs.

"As faculty, we have set a high bar for our students in both classroom and laboratory experiences," **Herkimer College Professor Karen S. Jones '93, P.T., D.P.T.** said. "We know what it takes for them to be successful on the boards and in their careers. The students in this program work extremely hard to meet the goals we have set."

Jones is a graduate of the College's first PTA class and has been instrumental in the program's development over the years. Under her guidance, graduation rates, pass rates on the Boards, and employment rates for PTA graduates are consistently above 95 percent.

"We, as a program, try to incorporate fun learning activities and field trips whenever possible to supplement their hard work," Jones explained. "This includes trips to local PT facilities such as Sitrin Health Care to participate in aquatics, Springbrook in Oneonta to observe pediatrics, Faxton Hospital to participate in cardiac

rehabilitation, and the American Physical Therapy Association's national conference where they provide further education and networking with physical therapy professionals across the United States. Our program is very 'hands-on' and the knowledge the students learn and practice in the classroom carries over into practice."

The employment rate of the College's PTA program has been 100 percent for the past 21 years, and according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for a PT assistant was \$61,180 in 2021. The field is projected to grow 24 percent by 2031.

"The PTA program has the support of many wonderful clinicians in the area that allow our students to do clinical internships at their facilities under their supervision and guidance," Jones added. "We have a strong advisory committee that has provided the program with guidance throughout the years as well as having a program mentor that has been set in place to assist the students in their learning experience."

"The students' success reflects our success as an institution," Herkimer College Dean of Academic Affairs William McDonald said.

"This exceptional achievement is due to the dedication and care that our faculty, students, and College officials have put into the program. Congratulations to all!"

**For more information on Herkimer College's PTA program, visit [herkimer.edu/pta](http://herkimer.edu/pta).**



# Meet Our New Faculty

These distinguished professionals bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge in their respective fields, greatly enriching the educational experience for students.



**Dr. Lynn Kattato** was appointed to the position of assistant professor of business.

Kattato has served as an adjunct instructor at Herkimer College since 2013, teaching a variety of business courses, including Business Communication, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Business Ethics. Kattato also has served as a liaison and mentor to College Now instructors who teach concurrent enrollment classes in high schools.

Kattato previously was a human resource director for Brodock Press in Utica, NY. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing Management from Utica College of Syracuse University. She also earned a master's degree in Business Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management from SUNY Institute of Technology and received her doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher University.



**Dr. Shawna Marmet** was appointed to the position of assistant professor for the Physical Therapist Assistant program. She is also the academic coordinator of clinical education.

Marmet was previously employed at Sitrin Health Care Center, in New Hartford, where she held a variety of positions including wellness coordinator, outpatient clinical supervisor, and physical therapist. Prior to that, Marmet was a physical therapist and clinical facility director at Function Better Physical Therapy in Herkimer, Washington Mills, and New Hartford. Marmet has experience in teaching at Utica University, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and SUNY Oswego.

Marmet holds a Doctor of Physical Therapy from SUNY Upstate Medical University and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from SUNY Oswego.



## COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to  
the Class of 2023!

The 55th Commencement ceremony, held May 12, 2023, was especially meaningful with several alumni participating in key roles. The national anthem was sung by **Joshua Lanza '12** and signed by **Madison Campagna '23**; the invocation and benediction were delivered by the **Very Reverend Sean P. O'Brien, V.F. '85**. The procession was led by Professor **Karen Jones '93, P.T., D.P.T.** Student Government Association President **Kyle K. Poulos '23** and Herkimer College Academic Senate Secretary **Jeffrey Steele '90** were among the officials to deliver greetings. **Jessica M. Marshall '23** delivered a speech titled *Destinations*, and **Jahiem Donell Barber '23** delivered the address, *The Road to Success*.

## New ASAP Program Enhances Student Success

### HERKIMER COLLEGE HAS DEEPEINED ITS COMMITMENT TO ENSURE STUDENTS SUCCEED AT EVERY STEP.

This spring, the College launched its version of the Advancing Success in Associate Pathways or ASAP, an initiative funded through the SUNY Transformation Fund. Herkimer is one of 13 SUNY community colleges selected to replicate the City University of New York (CUNY) ASAP, which dramatically increases associate degree completion.



Herkimer College has also appointed **Alesha L. Bowman** as director of ASAP. Bowman most recently served as assistant professor of Herkimer's Fashion Buying & Merchandising A.A.S. program.

An entrepreneur and small business owner, Bowman also spent several years working in multicultural student affairs in higher education. In her last role, she served as director of multicultural student services at DePauw University in Indiana.

Bowman holds a bachelor's degree in Fashion Merchandising with a minor in Marketing and a master's degree in College Student Personnel Administration, both from the University of Central Missouri. She also earned a certificate in Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education from the University of Central Missouri. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Higher Education Leadership at Rockhurst University.

"I'm looking forward to helping students navigate the obstacles ahead with the strategic resources set in place to help them to the finish line," Bowman said.

"My goal is to make the ASAP team notable for being a student-campus connection that will always show up. I want them to think of us as their own personal cheer squad - we chant for their wins, hype up their successes, and rally behind them when they're in need."

ASAP offers structured pathways to help students gain and maintain academic momentum toward a degree and create a connected community through integrated, comprehensive wraparound supports and engagement activities. ASAP supports include tuition and fee assistance to close gaps after financial aid, funds for travel and textbooks, individualized advisement services, academic support, and career development activities.

Since its inception in 2007, ASAP|ACE (Advancing Completion through Engagement - SUNY's baccalaureate version) has collectively served more than 90,000 students and has been replicated across seven states.

"ASAP has a strong, nationally recognized track record of increasing retention and graduation rates," Herkimer College Provost Michael Oriolo said. "We will be able to assist 50 students this semester, and an additional 150 in the fall 2024 semester."

To be eligible for ASAP at Herkimer College, students must be New York State residents and be enrolled full-time in one of several ASAP-approved degree programs on campus.

For more information on ASAP at Herkimer College, visit [herkimer.edu/asap](http://herkimer.edu/asap).







# Students Experience Life-Changing Journey

on Healthcare Spring Break Trip to the Dominican Republic by Kari Procopio

**W**hen Herkimer College students **Karissa Camp** and **Dylan Jaklitsch** joined the inaugural healthcare and nursing trip to the Dominican Republic in the spring of 2023, they had little idea of what to expect. However, during the eight-day experience, the group of PTA students found the itinerary as varied and engaging as the culture. In the “DR,” medicine, food, people, architecture, infrastructure, and history all converged in the lesson plan. The result – a mind-opening and life-changing experience that they say they will remember forever.

“I gained valuable hands-on experience and had the opportunity to work in various healthcare settings, which provided me with exposure to different cultures and environments,” Jaklitsch shared. “This allowed me to be open to learning new things.”

The trip, organized for the College by Biology Professor Jennifer Adjodha-Evans, Ph.D., took the students from a hospital and daycare center in bustling Santo Domingo to the rural region of San Jose De Ocoa where they immersed themselves in every aspect of the remote, self-sustaining community of Rancho Arriba.

“I anticipated that it would be less modernized and more rural, with my knowledge mainly focused on its beautiful beaches and coasts,” said Jaklitsch. “I was pleasantly surprised by the warm and welcoming nature of the people. Even strangers were friendly and supportive, creating a sense of community. I noticed that people seemed to have a more relaxed pace of life, not rushing from one place to another. Overall, it was an inviting and refreshing place to come and learn.”

Accompanying the group from Herkimer were students from St. Elizabeth’s College of Nursing; SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Utica; and Riverland Community College, Minnesota.

“As an instructor, it was rewarding,” explained Adjodha-Evans. “For every activity, there was always an educational piece, whether we were learning about history or visiting facilities and non-tourist areas. They had the opportunity to experience every aspect of life and interact with every demographic.”

The students learned firsthand that while health systems face similar challenges, globally, their solutions may vary widely. Camp and Jaklitsch said they gained a deepening awareness of their field and a unique insight into the DR’s two-tier approach to healthcare. In the DR, citizens have government-provided healthcare, with the option of upgrading for additional care at a cost.

“We honestly felt like we could treat patients, even though we’re students,” Camp said. “This is from the questions that were being asked of us and how we handled the clinic. We felt pretty comfortable and confident.”

“You know, things may not be running as smoothly or as efficiently, so for us to help out in their healthcare settings, I’m sure it meant a lot to them,” Jaklitsch added. “I feel like we understood the weight of what we were doing. It meant a lot to be able to have that type of impact, whereas here that’s something we take heavily for granted. It was one of the happiest weeks of my life.”

# Determination and Innovation

result in business success for young alum

by Rebecca Ruffing



Armed with a two-year degree in business and a can-do attitude, **Kailey Sweet '18** has quickly become a successful entrepreneur. In 2019, Sweet founded Liberty Translations and Interpreters and grossed over half a million dollars in the first year.

Not only was she an owner, Sweet also served in the role of chief financial officer for three years. Earlier this year, she transitioned into a shareholder so she could start another business – Universal Language Solutions.



With Universal Language Solutions, Sweet provides a more holistic approach to language services, incorporating language access planning, innovative remote interpreting solutions, along with website and content translation to a variety of businesses, organizations, and individuals.

A graduate of Poland High School, Sweet said she chose to enroll at Herkimer College due to the welcoming atmosphere and active campus culture.

“There was value in every class. Regardless of what you do, you need all the important topics,” said Sweet. She recalls her marketing class project as especially impactful.

“My marketing class was a game-changer. We had to create a business, identify its unique advantages, create marketing materials, and make a presentation.”

“Having my associate degree gave me the courage to start my business. It gave me the fundamentals to build on and the confidence to take challenges,” she added.

Prior to starting her first business, Sweet worked for ConMed in Utica, NY, where she worked with a diverse team. She saw firsthand the language challenges and the barriers they posed for the business, as well as for the employees in their personal lives. A six-week visit to Bosnia solidified her desire to help people with language barriers.

Success was achieved quickly for Sweet, securing a three-year \$600,000 contract, resulting in expansion to include offices in Utica and Syracuse, six full-time employees, and around 90 contracted and part-time interpreters.

Sweet is looking forward to growing her new business and implementing innovative processes and services. She is developing a mobile app to easily connect clients with providers. “Making resources more accessible and understanding how each culture brings its own unique differences is what I am focused on,” she said.

Sweet also enjoys being involved in the community, attending a variety of activities and events when she can. Recently, she gave a keynote speech to 600 high school and middle school students at a career day. “My advice for them was to focus on what you are good at or enjoy, and the rest will come. Don’t feel like you have to have it all figured out.”

At 25 years old, Sweet has achieved more than many do in decades. And she is just getting started.

“I’ve worked hard, but I’m not there yet. I want my business to have an impact for generations to come.”





# ‘Educating by Design’

by Kari Procopio

## Alumna Tracy Young engineers a future generation of problem solvers in the classroom and on campus

On a late October morning, **Tracy Young ’92** is teaching her fourth-grade class reverse engineering – the process of breaking down the components of a device to see how it works. It’s an entirely hands-on exercise, and her students are all in.

Young, a STEAM specialist and Engineering by Design (EbD) instructor for Benton Hall Academy’s K–5th grade students, located in Little Falls, breaks down her classroom approach and key ingredients to lifelong learning as consisting of collaboration, problem-solving, and learning from failure.

“I see that the kids are more engaged when you are teaching hands-on learning,” Young said. “So, in my room where it’s all engineering and STEM-based education, the kids have to be active. So, they’re collaborating, and we talk about synergizing. So, there’s constantly that, that synergy between each other.”

Engineering by Design, or “EbDing” as it has affectionately come to be known among the students, is a prime example of that synergy and the impact of Young’s teaching beyond the classroom walls.

Young shared an example of a student who faced a dilemma at home. A friend, who was on crutches, expressed a desire to go for a bike ride. The solution? EbDing it.

“The child ingeniously created a mechanism to pull their friend behind the bike and proudly declared that they “EbD’ed it”

The term was born out of Young’s instruction to store knowledge in the student’s mental filing cabinets for future use. When they call on this knowledge, Young says they’re thrilled to witness the tangible application of their skills outside the

## Alumni

classroom. She said even students on the playground have been overheard to “EbD” a problem.

“We also do a lot of problem-solving and failures. So, everything in my classroom has an engineering aspect. In kindergarten, they come in and we engage them in all of these lessons that lead up to their grand design challenge, and they have to work together with a group and collaborate or synergize.”

“They’re going to figure out that failure is a part of learning,” Young added. “And I think that that’s one of the biggest takeaways with this program — when they first come in, they think that things have to look a certain way, but it doesn’t work like that. They figure out, *Oh, I failed on this part, but I can make a modification, and now I can make it work this way.* So, I teach my kids to fail gracefully.”

There are various grand design challenges each of Young’s classes completes for their grade level. Various projects have included building birdhouses, creating noise-canceling devices, designing seed spreaders, and developing an off-the-grid treehouse.

Hands-on learning also continues with various field trips, including the fourth-grade trip back to her alma mater.

It is apparent from Young’s dedication and engagement with her students that her teaching style grew out of her own experience matriculating at Herkimer College.



“With this class, we visit with (Assistant Professor of Electrical Technology) Rabab Hassan to the electronics lab, which is beautiful,” Young said. “She teaches them about renewable and non-renewable energy and then about all the machines, which is absolutely phenomenal.”

“We bring our journals and sketch things out there too (as in our classroom) because I feel that sketching is important,” she added. “We sketch some of the machines or devices in that lab because I’m hoping that some kids think this is interesting and this is where I want to go to school.”

**We set that seed early.**



“(Herkimer) was great,” she shared. “I still remember so many of my professors. And in class, they knew who I was. I wasn’t a number. It just felt like home.”

Herkimer College was also “home” to Young’s daughter Hannah. She follows in her mother’s footsteps, graduating in 2001 with an A.S. degree in Childhood Education.

“At Herkimer, you’re just going to get that personalized attention.”

And, if you’re a student in Young’s class, that is precisely what you can expect.

Young is a national EbD trainer and International Technology and Engineering Educators Association





CLASS NOTES



**Richard (Dick) Dowe '69** (Accounting A.A.S.) resides in Whitesboro and is executive director of Stone Ridge Residences, formerly known as the Herkimer Housing Authority. Under Dowe's leader-

ship, a \$60 million renovation was completed along with the name change. Stone Ridge Residences serves the Herkimer community with five affordable housing complexes.

**James Bullis '76** (Science A.S.) recently retired from the Schaeffer Group where he worked as a machinist.

**Daniel Burling '77** (Science A.S.) earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy after graduating from Herkimer College. He went on to own two pharmacies. He also served in the Genesee County Legislature for six years and the New York State Legislature for 14 years. He is now retired but maintains his license and does some relief work. Burling is currently the mayor of Warsaw in Wyoming County where he lives. Burling and his wife Jeannie have been married for 54 years and have a son David and daughter Mary, grandchildren Joseph and Alyssa, and a great granddaughter Harper Jo. Burling said about his time at Herkimer, "I was an older student, married with children, and a Marine Vietnam veteran. I received an outstanding education from dedicated staff and professors." Burling was selected as the 1999 Herkimer College Alumnus of the Year. He was inducted into the Herkimer College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2000.

**Dan Pelletier '79** (Radio-TV Broadcasting A.A.S.) is enjoying retirement after a career as an elementary school reading specialist. Pelletier lives in North Carolina near his two daughters.

**Kathleen (Boyle) DeCarlo '80** (Office Technology-Court Reporting A.A.S.), of Herkimer, NY, has retired from a 37-year career in court reporting, which included running a court reporting agency. She was recently elected councilwoman for the Town of Herkimer and runs the after-school program at St. Francis de Sales School.

**Diane Johnson '84** (Humanities A.A.)

published her third book, *Perfect Sacrifices*, in the Perfect Prophet horror trilogy. The series tells the story of two brothers—a death metal atheist turned faith healer, and a satanic cult leader on a path to find redemption. The second book, *Prophet Reborn*, has been recognized as a finalist in the 2023 Readers Favorite International Book Awards competition in the category of Christian Thrillers.



**Deidra (Luther) Rankins '84**

(Office Technology-Executive A.A.S.), of Poland, NY, retired in 2022 from the local Boy Scouts of America office and is working seasonally for the Black River Outdoor Education Program in Boonville, NY. "We teach youth how to kayak. We take them biking, hiking, cross country skiing and snow shoeing. It's a great job!!"



**Brian Haak '88** (Accounting A.A.S), **'89** (A.A. Social Science) was nominated by Governor Hochul for a seat on the New York State Court of Claims. He was confirmed by the New York State Senate on June 9, 2023 and immediately assumed office. Haak is a judge with the New York State Court of Claims in Saratoga Springs, NY.



**Jennifer Scully '90** (Humanities A.A.), of Amenia, NY, earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Organizational Innovation from Marymount University in Arlington, VA.

Dr. Scully has conducted workshops and published on building resilient administrative teams. She is currently serving as an adjunct instructor in the Ed.D. program at Marymount University and advising doctoral candidates. She is the head of school at Maplebrook School in Amenia, NY. Scully also holds a B.A. from SUNY Albany and an M.A. from Fordham University.



**Andy Wolf '96** (Radio-TV Broadcasting A.A.S.) was presented with the Syracuse Press Club's 2023 Selwyn Kershaw Professional Standards Award at their annual awards banquet on May 6, 2023. Additionally on October 9, 2023, Wolf and his CNYCentral news team earned an Edward R. Murrow award for Best News Documentary – "School Suffering: A Pandemic's Lasting Pain." Wolf is a news photographer for CNYCentral, Syracuse (NBC 3/CBS 5). Wolf has earned numerous awards throughout his career including an Emmy Award for the education story "The Map: Desegregated Schools."

**Gill Florentino '01**

(Criminal Justice A.A.S.) resides in Katy, Texas and is president and general manager at Matador Motors. Florentino was recognized with the prestigious "Top 100 Leaders in Transportation & Automotive" award at the 2021 inaugural edition of the International Transportation & Automotive Summit, held at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas. Prior to becoming president and general manager, Florentino was a senior auto finance manager for 20 years.



**Heather McCutcheon '03** (Art Studies A.A.)



was named New York State Art Teacher of the Year for 2023. McCutcheon is an art educator for Herkimer Jr./Sr. High School and serves as the district's Art in

Education coordinator. The New York State Art Teachers Association rewards commitment to excellence in art education with this prestigious award. The selected educator must have practiced exemplary teaching and strong advocacy, and made an impact on those around them in their school, region, and state as well as within the association.

McCutcheon also was named an Apple Distinguished Educator in 2023. McCutcheon was one

of only about 50 people to be named to the ADE Class of 2023 from more than 500 submissions nationwide. Along with this award, McCutcheon was selected to present at the Apple Distinguished Educators Institute in Dallas, TX, a program designed to recognize K–12 and higher education pioneers who are using Apple technology to transform teaching and learning in powerful ways.



**Adrienne Hollenbeck '12**

(Paralegal A.A.S.) resides in Oswego, NY and is a human rights specialist with the New York State Division of Human Rights.

**Rebecca Noble-Foster '13** (Physical Therapist Assistant A.A.S.) has been practicing physical therapy for almost 11 years and has a certification as a lymphedema therapist as well. "I work at MVHS Faxton and love my career! Thank you, Herkimer College, for starting me on the right path!"

**Erica Puello '13** (Criminal Justice A.S.) resides in New York City and had her first child in 2020.



**Robert Drumm '13**, (Cybersecurity A.A.S.) of Mohawk, NY, was appointed by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul to the Herkimer College Board of Trustees in October 2023.

Drumm is the chief executive officer and president of the board for the Mohawk Valley Ambulance Corporation, Mohawk, NY. From 2013–2015, Drumm was chief financial officer for the State University of New York Student Assembly, Albany, NY. He served as commissioner of elections for the Herkimer County Board of Elections from 2020–2022, and deputy commissioner of elections from 2014–2020.

While in college, Drumm served as president of the Student Government Association, and represented the student body on the Board of Trustees.

## Alumni



**Nicole Todd '13** (Fashion Buying & Merchandising A.A.S.) was recently promoted to content operations manager at Town-square Media (TSM). Previously, she spent two years at TSM Utica-Rome as a digital managing editor, working directly with on-air personalities and the sales team handling all things digital, including website content (editing and overseeing the stories for the web), website maintenance, and local contesting. The promotion has expanded her role to include overseeing TSM markets in New York, New England, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and parts of Iowa. In October 2023, Todd was nominated and selected to be one of Radio Ink's 30 and Under Superstars. Todd is a member of the Futures Committee, a part of the New York State Broadcasters Association. She recently traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for the 'AM For Every Vehicle Act' with lawmakers throughout New York State.

### **Raymond Ruggerio '15**

(Criminal Justice A.S.) resides in Swanton, VT and is a customs and border patrol officer with the Department of Homeland Security. He celebrated his five-year work anniversary on July 12, 2023, with the Office of Field Operations!



**Elizabeth Licata '17** (Medical Coding/Transcription Certificate) resides in Lancaster, NY. She is a medical coder for the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY.



### **Samantha Alberts '18**

(Fashion Buying & Merchandising A.A.S.) is a first year graduate student pursuing her master of arts degree in Apparel Design at Cornell University. Alberts' research interests include bringing sustainable fashion practices and education to rural communities. She is also currently working for the Cornell Fashion Collection helping with tours and building of exhibits, cataloging, and education around the pieces in the collection. "My time at Herkimer College was the

start of my journey in fashion and made it grow to the point of wanting to learn more and more about this ever-changing and beautifully complicated industry!"

**Kyle Holmes '18** (Physical Education A.S.) resides in Van Etten, NY and is a senior clerk and high school cross country and track coach for Spencer-Van Etten Central School District in Spencer, NY. Holmes was named the 2022–23 ESPN Ithaca Boys & Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year in his first season as varsity coach at Spencer-Van Etten. (This past fall, he coached the sixth fastest boy in Class D cross country in New York State.)

**Cheneyrae Mumphery '18** (Social Science A.A.) of Mount Vernon, NY, is a flight attendant with JetBlue Airways. Mumphery said, "I attended Herkimer College from 2016–2018. I loved every minute of it. I always think back about the times I shared at Herkimer. Those times are one of the best times of my life and I met some amazing people...I recently took a chance on a dream career I've been wanting to embark on since a little girl. I became a flight attendant with JetBlue airlines, and I've never been happier."

**Tarek Bhuiyan '19** (Computer Network Technology A.A.S.) is a security engineer. He recently celebrated two years working for Amazon AWS Security.

**Emilie Monahan '21** (Forensic Investigations A.A.S.) transferred to Hilbert College in Hamburg, NY after graduating from Herkimer College. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Crime Scene Investigation and a master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration through an accelerated program.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Donald R. Mureness Jr. '96**, of Gloversville, NY, passed away at the age of 58 on January 4, 2023. Mureness earned an A.A.S. in Radio/TV Broadcasting and owned his own radio show on WCSS where he also worked as a disc jockey before becoming a technical support specialist. After retiring in 2016, he started Asgardian Radio, a radio show hosted on Twitch.

Submit your class notes at [herkimer.edu/classnotes](https://herkimer.edu/classnotes)



**James I. Marsh** passed away at the age of 95 on February 26, 2023. Marsh served on the College Board of Trustees from 1991–2001. He was a dedicated and valued member of the college community, serving as secretary of the Board from 1993–1996 and as chairperson from 1996–2001. His obituary said he enjoyed his work supporting public education because it’s “where we can make the biggest difference in people’s lives.”

**Suzanne Tills '82** passed away on May 23, 2023 after a yearlong battle with cancer. Tills graduated from Hamburg High School in 1980, and graduated with an associate degree in Travel and Tourism from Herkimer County Community College in 1982. She worked in the travel industry for 40 years, the last 26 years with AAA, 20 of them as a supervisor.



**President Emeritus Robert McLaughlin** passed away on May 23, 2023 at the age of 101. McLaughlin’s passion for education led him to a leadership role at SUNY Farmingdale, and then to

Herkimer County Community College, where he served from 1966–1986. As the founding president, he played a pivotal role in shaping the institution’s vision and ensuring its future success. Throughout his 20-year tenure, McLaughlin initiated and oversaw the development of academic programs, student services, and institutional facilities. He also engaged the services of the original faculty. As a result of his many efforts, McLaughlin gained stature as one of the most respected community college presidents in the SUNY system. The college center was named for and dedicated to Robert McLaughlin on May 25, 1986. McLaughlin was honored as an inaugural torchbearer in 1999. McLaughlin received an honorary SUNY Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the College’s 42nd annual commencement ceremony in 2010, the first honorary degree conferred in the College’s history. Donations may be made to the Grace McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship at Herkimer College in memory of President Emeritus McLaughlin.

**James Francis Garnsey** passed away at the age of 92, on Friday, June 23, 2023 in Ilion, NY. Garnsey served on the College Board of Trustees from 1987–1996. He was a dedicated and valued member of the college community, serving as vice chair of the Board from 1991–1993 and as chairperson from 1993–1996. He and his wife Dorothy loved to travel and enjoyed many overseas trips with the College’s travel program, visiting Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, and Australia and taking cruises to the Caribbean, Mexico and Nova Scotia.

**Professor Emeritus Anne Greco, Ph.D.** passed away on September 29, 2023. Greco joined the faculty in 1968 as an English instructor. She was promoted through the ranks to professor and also served as a division chair. She was awarded the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1976. Greco retired in 1996 and was subsequently honored by the Board of Trustees with the title of professor emeritus.

**Kevin Scott Widrick '90** passed away unexpectedly at the age of 53 on November 10, 2023. Widrick earned an associate in applied science degree in Business Administration and a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Potsdam.

**Lori Gabriel Knapp '78** passed away on Saturday, December 16, 2023 after a private and valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Lori was a first-generation student and earned a degree in Travel and



Tourism. For many years, she was a proud member of Herkimer College’s Alumni Association, serving current and future alums. Lori dedicated a 30-year career with AAA, earning the position of Director of Travel and achieved the highest advanced degree of CTIE (Certified Travel Industry Executive).

Upon retiring from AAA, Lori volunteered for various organizations, participated with Oneida County Tourism on their Ambassador Tour Bus Programs, wrote for the Women Belong in History Books series, and conducted numerous local bus tours to promote local women in history. Lori leaves her husband John Knapp and five sisters, including **Professor Cynthia Gabriel '85.**

## MEN'S SOCCER NEWS



L to R: Todd Stoller '90, Pepe Aragon '91, Kevin Mellon '01, and Ian Cassidy '00.

**Kevin Mellon '01**, manager of team administration and gameday operations for the New England Revolution, hosted his fellow alumni in July for a game against Atlanta United FC. They enjoyed a tour of the training facilities and Gillette Stadium.

**Head Soccer Coach Pepe Aragon '91** said, "I am so proud of Kevin. He made a lot of sacrifices to get to the highest level of professional soccer in the US. Kevin is a great example to our players that hard work pays off. We had an amazing experience and time watching the Revolution train and play. The coaches and staff were extremely welcoming."



Congratulations to former Herkimer Generals goalie **Triston Henry '14** on being named the 2023 Canadian Premier League Golden Glove winner! Triston led the Generals to back-to-back national championships in 2012 and 2013. He was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 2022.



**Head Coach Pepe Aragon '91** won his 25th NJCAA regional championship title in 2023. This is the most regional titles won by a men's soccer head coach in the NJCAA. Congratulations to Coach Aragon!





## Men's Soccer Captures Regional Championship and Finishes in Third Place Nationally

The 2023 men's soccer team won the Region 3B championship with an upset over the top-ranked team nationally, Genesee Community College. This was the 25th time in the last 26 years that the Generals earned a spot to compete in the NJCAA Division III tournament. It was also Head Coach Pepe Aragon's 25th regional championship at the helm.

The team traveled to Gastonia, North Carolina where they defeated Camden County Community College 6-3 in the NJCAA Division III quarterfinal. They fell in the semifinals to rival Dallas College-Richland with a 2-0 loss. Herkimer finished their season with a win over Nassau Community College 5-4 in the third-place match.



## Former Midfielder Ivan Guarin and the 1995 Men's Soccer Team to be Inducted in NJCAA Soccer Hall of Fame

**Ivan Guarin '08** was a two-year standout for the Generals, playing in 2006 and 2007. In his freshman season, he was named to the All-Tournament team. In his sophomore season, Guarin tallied 10 goals and 17 assists for the 2007 Herkimer team that finished with a 16-2-2 record. During this season, Guarin was a first-team All-American and was named the Region 3 Male Athlete of the Year. Guarin holds the fourth-most career assists since the 2000-01 season with 31.

The 1995 men's soccer team finished 25-0-0 on the season to win their second consecutive NJCAA National Championship title and 50th consecutive win. During the championship game, Herkimer goalie **Mark Williams '96** had 12 saves and tournament MVP **David Seipp '96** had a goal and assist to lead the Generals to a 4-3 win over Nassau Community College.

The 1995 men's soccer team was led by Head Coach Perry Nizzi who was coach at Herkimer from 1981-1998.

The 1995 team ended the season with a NJCAA National Championship, NJCAA Region 3 Championship, and the Mountain Valley Conference Championship title.

## Herkimer Places in Top 5 Nationally for Athletic Program Success



Herkimer College placed fifth in the 2022-23 Daktronics Cup standings for non-scholarship schools with 11 teams competing in national championship tournaments. The Daktronics Cup is an annual award system run by The National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA), recognizing junior college athletic programs with the most success in post-season competition.

Herkimer is the only non-scholarship junior college program to place in the top 10 each year since the Daktronics Cup's inception in 2003-04 and has been in the top five in 17 of the last 18 years.

## Golfer Evan Crouse Recognized as a Stellar Athlete and Scholar



Evan Crouse '23, of Fort Plain, NY, was recognized for outstanding academic and athletic success by the State University of New York (SUNY) as the 2023 NJCAA Scholar Athlete of the Year for men's golf. Crouse was one of only 27 student-athletes from SUNY colleges and universities honored for the spring 2023 season. Crouse was Herkimer's first golfer to earn All-American status with a 16th-place finish at the 2023 NJCAA Division III championship tournament. Crouse also won the Region III

championship finishing first overall with a score of 71-80-151, earning First Team All-Region honors. He concluded his sophomore season with a 77.09 scoring average, the fourth lowest in Region III.

## Donors Support Athletic Endowment



L to R: Herkimer College Golf Coach Rick Salamone, former NHL player Kevin Todd, Nicholas Laino, Mark Tucci '91 and Keith Tucci '91.

Several individuals recently contributed to the athletic endowment to support the needs of athletic teams during post-season play. Officer-in-Charge Nicholas Laino hosted a dinner and golf outing, as well as a hockey night for the most recent donors to the fund. "We are fortunate to have a highly successful athletic program. But winning a lot becomes costly. Transportation, hotels, meals, and other expenses add up when you have numerous teams competing well after their regular seasons have ended," said Laino, who led the effort to establish the endowment in 2015. "We are grateful to all our friends who support the Generals athletic program."





## Herkimer College Lacrosse Gears Up for an Exciting Season Following Coach Leary's Triumph as Mountain Valley Conference Coach of the Year

by Kari Procopio

The Herkimer College Men's Lacrosse program is ramping up its 2024 season after a successful high-energy 2022–2023 season where **Head Coach Bob Leary '85** was named Mountain Valley Conference Coach of the Year. In this second season as Generals lacrosse coach, he led the program to eight wins, the most of any Mountain Valley Conference team, and the most by a Herkimer team since 2015.

**"The 2023 Herkimer Lacrosse team grew more over the season than any team I can remember."**

"We started the year with no experience at midfield and only one returning attackman. To have the kind of growth where every attackman is honored, five midfield players, and three on the defensive side is a testament to the hard work of all of the players and coaches," said Leary.

Leary said he sees the potential for the same type of energy in his team this season.

"You can see the talent," he added. "We made strides at the end of the fall season, and I expect we'll make a big leap."

This year's roster includes players from across the nation, including freshman **Josh Kelau** from Hawaii, whose high school coach is also former Generals 2000–2001 season midfield player **Daniel Curran**.

Curran even made the journey across the Pacific for the lacrosse alumni game held on October 14. Other former players who made the homecoming to Wehrum Stadium included **Chad Riley '13**, **Pete Colburn '93**, **Brandon Davis '06**, **Brendan Murphy**, **Nick Suits**, **Nick DePalo '13**, **Andrew Sipperly**, **Rodney Thehotrod Redeye**, **Mario Diaz**, **Cody Ellis '24**, **Scott Petrie**, **Austin James Racquet**, **Ryan Mierek '24**, and **Rich Dommer**.



Lacrosse alumni also reconnected at the 34th annual Lake Placid Summer Classic last August. It was the second annual gathering of alumni, friends, and family. In the first year, players reminisced with legendary **Coach Paul Wehrum**. This year, they were joined by **Tom Hart '77**, a player on the first Generals lacrosse team and a current volunteer lacrosse coach with the Utica University Pioneers.

The Lake Placid Summer Classic, which began with a seven-team field in 1990, has evolved into a week-long event with more than 250 teams playing. It's a popular tournament that Leary said always attracts older division Herkimer lacrosse alumni. "Our alumni are really supportive and engaged. A lot is going on, and there's more to come!"

Herkimer College's men's lacrosse program is internationally known for its success and reputation as one of the top junior college programs. The team has an impressive record, with nine national championships, 21 Region III Championships, and an impressive streak of 31 consecutive Mohawk Valley Conference titles. Additionally, the program has produced over 100 All-American players.

You can stay up to date with Generals Lacrosse at [herkimergenerals.com](http://herkimergenerals.com), find the Herkimer Lacrosse public group on Facebook, or follow [@herkimerlacrosse](https://www.instagram.com/herkimerlacrosse) on Instagram.

## From the Executive Director



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is hard to believe another year has passed, but time really does fly, especially when you're as busy as the College and Foundation have been!

We have continued to host in-person gatherings where I've been fortunate to meet and spend time with many of you. Meeting with alumni remains one of the more rewarding aspects of my job.

The Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair continues to prove itself as one of the most successful fundraising events. Over 100 vendors packed the College Center for the one-day show in November, setting a new single-day attendance record with more than 2,300 people in attendance!

We also recently held multiple events designed to increase awareness and support of our athletic endowment. A big thank you to all who attended and pledged their support!

Many of you contributed to the overall success of the Foundation this year. On behalf of the Foundation, I would like to express my gratitude. There is no question that your support is critical in our mission to support Herkimer College and the students we serve. The interest and passion you continue to show Herkimer College is amazing!

The upcoming year is going to be an exciting one with new College leadership, as well as several new initiatives and programs planned, including a Day of Giving this April. I look forward to seeing and speaking with many of you in the coming year.

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

The Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair continues to prove itself as one of the most successful fundraising events. Over 100 vendors packed the College Center for the one-day show in November, setting a new single-day attendance record with more than 2,300 people in attendance!





# THANK YOU TO ALL

who generously donated to the Herkimer County College Foundation in 2022–2023.

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**Toni Secreti '15**

**Roy Sedgwick '73**

**Savannah Sergio '14**

Daniel Shappee

Jacob Sherline

Amber Sickles

Albert Skermont

Joseph Skinner

**Rebecca Smith '89**

**Stephen Smith '85**

Mike Spina

Shaquannah Streeter

David Sutherland

Steven Sydoriw

Dean Taylor

Louise Theoret

Maricelis Torres

Eric Ungleich

Michael Varanesi

Helene Verdile

**Jane Verri '96**

**Dr. Mark Vivacqua '79**

Adriane Wheat

Richard Winslow

Rich Zajac

## Up to \$99

**Peter Anadio '02**

Karen Aune

Karen Ayouch

**Scott Barnard '92**

Jada Bell

**Cindy Brewer '03**

Alani Buchardt

Cameron Burnett

**Victoria Campanian '15**

## Donors

Jeannie Carritt  
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Charles Palladino  
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Richard Prestopnik  
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**Daniel Stalteri '85**  
Ashley Sterritt

**Courtney Tasco '14**  
Temple Beth Joseph  
Julie Todd  
Wendall Williams  
Annette Yauney  
**John Zieno '79**

If you made a donation from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023 and were inadvertently omitted from this list, please accept our sincere apologies and notify the Herkimer County College Foundation Office at 315-866-0300, ext. 8268 to ensure records are updated.

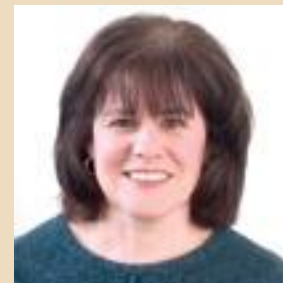


## EMERITUS STATUS



**Mary Ann Carroll '80**, upon her retirement, was named dean emeritus. Emeritus status is an honor granted by the Board of Trustees to retired professional academic and administrative staff members who have demonstrated excellence and commitment to making Herkimer College the exceptional institution it is today. Carroll joined the faculty in 1986 as a junior instructor in the Applied Science and Technology division, was granted tenure in 1991, and promoted to assistant professor in 2003. She joined the administration in 2004 as an associate dean in the Humanities division, and in 2006, she was appointed associate professor in the Radio-TV Broadcasting department. Beginning in 2012, Carroll served in the administration until her retirement in 2023 as an associate dean of academic affairs for Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness.

## OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR



**Associate Professor Amy Getman** was recognized with an Outstanding Educator award by The Genesis Group at its annual Celebration of Education held in November 2023. Getman joined the Herkimer College staff in 2003 as a tutor and math instructor and has been promoted through the ranks to associate professor of Accounting. Getman's nominator said, "Amy is universally respected throughout the college community by her colleagues and students. She goes above and beyond, in and out of the classroom, to ensure her students are supported and successful. She is a quiet leader among her peers, evidenced by her recent work to review every business program of study to ensure relevance and adherence to accreditation and SUNY standards."



## Employees Recognized for Service

Congratulations to the following employees for reaching milestones of service in 2023!

### 10 YEARS

Frank Drapalski  
Rosalie Sadallah  
Gail Smith  
Dr. Eric Vernold

### 20 YEARS

Christian Avis  
Karen Ayouch  
Andrew Devitt '94  
Dr. Lisa Elwood-Farber  
Amy Getman

### 40 YEARS

Jackie Woudenberg

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Faculty Promotions

**Justin Como**, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Studio Art

## Appointments & Promotions

**Matthew Babula**, Director, K-12 Connections  
**Alesha Bowman**, Assistant Professor, Fashion Buying & Merchandising  
**Kasper Cuda**, Grant Administrator  
**Lynda Diehl '97**, Staff Accountant – Payroll  
**Skylar Kaelin**, Athletic Trainer  
**Dr. Lynn Kattato**, Assistant Professor, Business  
**Joseph Kelly**, Accountant, Faculty Student Association  
**Joshua Lanza '12**, Academic Support Center Specialist, English/Writing and Esports Coach  
**Keegan Leffler '19**, Technical Assistant – Advisement Center/Admissions  
**Nicholas M. Maggio, Jr.**, Campus Peace Officer  
**Dr. Shawna Marmet**, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy Assistant and Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education  
**Joshua Muzzi '23**, Campus Peace Officer  
**Kathleen Netti**, Coordinator for Accessibility Services  
**Cory Scanlon**, Coordinator – Internet Academy

**Karen Scott**, Coordinator of College-in-Prison Programming (part-time)

**Madeline Snyder**, Collegiate Recovery Program Coordinator

**Shayla Staves**, Technical Assistant, Academic Support Center

**Nicholas Trask '21**, Campus Peace Officer

**Vito Valenzi '17**, Public Relations Assistant

## Retirements

**Mary Ann Carroll '80**, Dean of Academic Affairs, Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness – 37 years of service

**Kathy DeAngelis**, Office Assistant II – 20 years of service

**Julie Lewis '81**, Director of Business & Finance, FSA – 19 years of service

**Cathleen C. McColgin, Ph.D.**, President – 8 years of service

**Diane Palmieri**, Senior Account Clerk – 26 years of service

**Margaret Schumacher**, Office Assistant II – 41 years of service

**Stacie Shepardson**, Senior Accountant – 22 years of service

## 2023 SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

SUNY's Excellence awards are designed for faculty and staff who personify professional excellence and serve as role models not only for the State of New York, but for the College as well. They publicly acknowledge superior professional achievement while encouraging the pursuit of excellence.



**William McDonald**, Dean of Academic Affairs – Excellence in Professional Service

Bill is known for supporting numerous faculty-led initiatives to support academic success for our students. As a consensus builder, Bill has often demonstrated his ability to bring diverse and opposing groups together, breaking down barriers to reach a common goal. He works beside his faculty to listen, ask questions, and encourage them to combine expertise. Bill not only engages in the collaborative process, he creates an atmosphere for it to flourish.



**Maryann Wrinn**, Professor, Fine Arts – Excellence in Teaching

Maryann is genuine, professional and respected among her peers, often facing difficult situations with deep thought and courage. She is a creative, critical thinker who brings calm wisdom and reasoning to her colleagues and students, with a welcoming demeanor. Professor Wrinn has served as a role model and mentor for her fellow faculty members across all disciplines and programs, bringing a level of innovation to her classes that supports students in making their best efforts and realizing their best work.



**Denise Fulmer**, Office Assistant I – Excellence in Classified Service

Denise's exemplary customer service is demonstrated by how she assists faculty and staff with walk-in, high-risk, and distraught students; properly assists parents while maintaining privacy regulations; and communications in a calm and clear manner during challenging situations. A true testament is the countless times students frequently stop in to see Denise to thank her for her support and help.

With the addition of these three employees, a total of 83 Herkimer College faculty and staff have been honored with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence. A complete list is available at [Herkimer.edu/chancellor-awards](https://herkimer.edu/chancellor-awards).



## FACTS & FIGURES

### Enrollment (Fall 2022):

Total Headcount	2,331
Full-Time	45%
Part-Time	55%

### Campus:

Herkimer Campus	31%
Internet Academy (100% online)	23%
College Now (Concurrent Enrollment)	42%
P-TECH (Early College High School)	1%
College In Prison	3%

### Gender:

Female	59%
Male	41%

### Age:

24 and under	81%
25 and above	19%

### Residency:

In-State	95%
Out-of-State	3%
International	2%

### Race/Ethnicity:

American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian	1.7%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%
Black or African American	10.4%
Hispanic/Latino	6.6%
Non-Resident Alien	2.1%
Two or More Races	1.6%
Unreported	2.5%
White (and other)	74.6%

### Faculty & Staff (Fall 2022):

Full-Time	148
Part-Time (excluding College Now)	88

**Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 16:1**

### 2022–2023 Graduates:

Degrees	301
Certificates	36

**90%** of first-time, full-time students (Fall 2021) received some form of **financial aid**  
(Source: IPEDS)

To view Herkimer College's financial report for 2022–2023, visit [herkimer.edu/financial](http://herkimer.edu/financial).

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### Art

Art Studio A.S.

### Business

Accounting A.A.S. \*  
Business Administration A.A.S. \*  
Business Administration A.S. \*  
Esports Management A.A.S.  
Fashion Buying & Merchandising A.A.S.  
Human Resource Management A.A.S. \*  
Logistics Management Essentials Microcredential \*\*  
Marketing A.A.S. \*  
Quality Assurance-Business A.S. \*  
Small Business Management A.A.S. \*  
Small Business Management Certificate \*  
Sports & Recreation Management A.A.S.  
Supply Chain Management A.A.S. \*\*

### Communication Arts

Communication and Media A.S.  
Music Industry A.S.

### Criminal Justice & Law

Crime & Intelligence Analysis A.A.S. \*  
Criminal Justice A.A.S. \*  
Criminal Justice A.S. \*  
Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics A.S. \*  
Emergency Management Certificate \*\*  
Forensic Investigations A.A.S.  
Legal Studies A.A.S. \*  
Paralegal Studies Certificate \*  
Pre-Employment Police Basic Training Certificate

### Education

Childhood Education A.S.  
Early Childhood A.A.S.  
Physical Education A.S.

### Healthcare & Service

Health Professions A.S.  
Health Services Management Technology A.A.S. \*\*  
Human Services A.A.S. \*  
Medical Coding - Transcriptionist Certificate \*\*  
Physical Therapist Assistant A.A.S.

### Liberal Arts & Sciences

General Studies A.A. \*  
Humanities A.A. \*  
Psychology A.A. \*  
Science A.S.  
Social Science A.A. \*

### STEM

Computer and Network Security A.A.S.  
Computer Science A.S.  
Electrical Technology A.A.S.  
Engineering Science A.S.  
Quality Assurance - Science A.S. \*  
Science A.S.

\*also offered online and on campus \*\*online only





# Herkimer

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## Upcoming Events

### **NJCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Championship Tournament**

March 13–16, 2024  
[herkimergenerals.com](https://herkimergenerals.com)

### **Spring Open House**

Friday, March 22, 2024  
[herkimer.edu/openhouse](https://herkimer.edu/openhouse)

### **Herkimer Generals Sports Invitational**

Saturday, April 6, 2024  
See page 5 for details.

### **Herkimer County College Foundation Day of Giving**

Thursday, April 18, 2024

### **56th Annual Commencement**

Friday, May 10, 2024, 4 p.m.  
[herkimer.edu/commencement](https://herkimer.edu/commencement)

### **Fall Fest & Alumni Weekend 2024**

Saturday, September 28, 2024  
[herkimer.edu/fallfest](https://herkimer.edu/fallfest)

