

The State University of New York

F A L L

2022

VALLEY VIEW

The Hudson Valley Community College Magazine

College Dedicates New Alumni House

Hudson Valley Breaks Ground on New STEM Center at HVCC North

Catching Up With Author and Alumnus John Gray '83

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Roger A. Ramsammy, Ph.D.
President

Dennis Kennedy '95
Executive Director of Communications and Marketing

Eric Bryant, Associate Director

Teresa Farrell, Assistant Director

John Heiser, Director of Creative Services

Vincent Giordano, Photographer and Multimedia Specialist

Please send your comments and feedback via email to news@hvcc.edu or via mail to:

Editor, *Valley View*
Hudson Valley Community College
Office of Communications and Marketing
80 Vandenberg Ave.
Troy, NY 12180

For more information about the college's Foundation and Alumni Association, call (518) 629-8012 or email alumni@hvcc.edu.

Regina LaGatta '73
Vice President of External and Government Affairs/
Executive Director, Foundation

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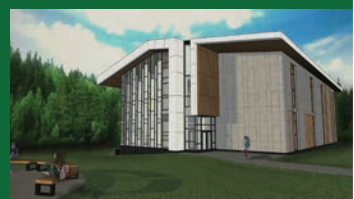
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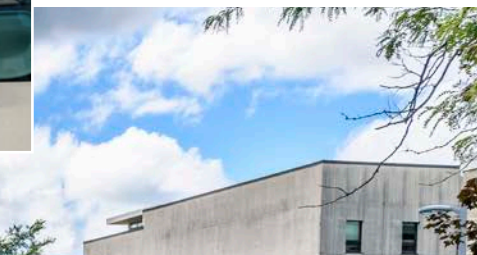
President Ramsammy Elected to World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics Board of Directors

ACADEMIC NOTES

QUESTAR III and HVCC STEM High School - An Innovative Model

Hudson Valley Community College and Questar III BOCES celebrated the grand opening of a new high school on Hudson Valley's main campus in Troy on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021 and enrolled its first class of 54 students. The innovative school is the first New York State Pathways in Technology (P-TECH) and Smart Scholar Early College High School to be hosted on a community college campus in the Capital Region, and will allow students to earn up to 63 college credits – at no cost – while completing high school. The school is open to

students across seven counties and 46 school districts looking for pathways to well-paid careers in the fast-growing, in-demand STEM fields of computer information systems, engineering technology, environmental science and protection technology, and health sciences.



New Degrees: Electric and Autonomous Vehicles and Welding and Fabrication

In the fall of 2021, Hudson Valley introduced two new academic programs, created in response to the increasing need for qualified technicians in emerging areas. The new Electric and Autonomous Vehicles and Welding and Fabrication degrees are offered through the college's Applied Technologies Department, and both prepare students to enter the workforce immediately after graduation.

The two-year Electric and Autonomous Vehicles A.O.S. teaches the skills needed to diagnose and repair the emerging technologies found in electric, hybrid and autonomous vehicles, including advanced driver assistance systems and vehicle cybersecurity, as well as teaching students the foundational skills needed to perform general automotive repair. At this time, there is no other degree program like it in the region.

The two-year Welding and Fabrication A.O.S. prepares graduates for a career in welding with an emphasis on metal fabrication. The unique curriculum includes a broad base of knowledge in fabrication and welding, along with instruction in areas like CAD, metrology and metallurgy, providing students with an advanced education not available in other welding programs.



College Receives National Science Foundation Grant to Create Electric Vehicle Training Modules

Hudson Valley Community College has been awarded a \$350,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund new training modules that will prepare students for careers in the rapidly-growing electric vehicle industry, especially in "V2G," or vehicle-to-grid charging systems. Through the grant, the college will develop training modules that will address significant knowledge gaps in areas directly impacted by V2G, including automotive repair, electrical construction and maintenance, and green technology management. The modules will also allow opportunities to train high school, community college, and trade educators serving students in traditionally underserved communities in V2G theory and operation; eventually, they will be shared with educational programs nationwide. The grant project is funded by the NSF's Advanced Technology Education program, which focuses on the education of technicians for the advanced technology fields that drive the nation's economy. Chris McNally, Ph.D., department chair and professor in the college's Applied Technologies programs, and Jim Countryman, assistant professor, are project leads.



College Introduces New Micro-Credentials in Business, Liberal Arts, Health Sciences

Hudson Valley has introduced a series of new micro-credentials that will help students get on a fast track to in-demand careers without having to complete a full degree first. These stackable sets of credit-bearing courses provide students with a way to gain specific career skills in the short term, and can be used as an entryway to a degree or certificate or as a standalone verified credential. All micro-credentials being offered at Hudson Valley have been approved by SUNY.

- Introduction to Accounting
- Intermediate Accounting
- Advanced Accounting
- CASAC-T Educational Core I
- CASAC-T Educational Core II
- CASAC-T Educational Core III

- Introduction to Criminal Justice
- Introduction to Data Analytics
- Advanced Data Analytics
- Basic Direct Care Skills
- Intermediate Direct Care Skills
- Advanced Direct Care Knowledge
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Cultural Diversity
- Introduction to Entrepreneurship
- Intermediate Entrepreneurship
- Advanced Entrepreneurship
- Fashion and Design
- Forensic Science Studies
- Introduction to Gaming Design and Sport Management
- Advanced Gaming Design and Sport Management
- Information Literacy
- Journalism and Media Studies
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Policing
- Self-Care and Well-Being
- Introduction to Supervision
- Advanced Supervision



New Names for Degree/Certificates

The college has changed the name of one of its academic programs in the School of Health Sciences in hopes of making clearer the career outcomes associated with the program.

What was known as Community Health Navigation is now known as Community and Public Health. Both the degree and certificate programs will continue to be offered, but the degree has changed from an associate in applied science (A.A.S.) to an associate in science (A.S.) to reflect a graduate's ability to transfer on to a bachelor's degree.

Graduates of the program serve as a liaison between clients and the healthcare system at large. Acting as facilitators and coaches, they work directly with patients, providers and other healthcare professionals to connect clients with services and provide support for those navigating the healthcare landscape. Many graduates work on behalf of health care providers, local governments and non-profits.

Also, the college has changed the name of one of its academic degrees in the School of STEM to reflect the growing importance of "ethical hacking" in cybersecurity. What was the Cybersecurity degree is now known as the Hacking and Cybersecurity (A.S.) degree.

Department Chair Ricky Thibodeau, said "The concept of ethical hacking is at the forefront of safeguarding business and government networks. We want incoming students to know that our curriculum will cover the most recent theories and practical measures with an emphasis on how ethical hacking impacts the cybersecurity field."

The degree program was first established in 2006 and annually has approximately 40 students who can find work in the field directly after graduation



or transfer into Cybersecurity and Information Security bachelor's degree programs.

Weekend Option Opens for Nursing Students



Hudson Valley became the first community college in the SUNY system to offer a Weekend Nursing Track this fall when it enrolled 18 students in an intensive 18-month program that leads to RN licensure.

The Nursing Department plans to increase enrollment to 36 students over the next year.

Over the past decade, there has been an ongoing effort to accommodate the large number of students applying to the college's highly competitive A.A.S. Nursing program. The Nursing Weekend Track is the latest of these efforts.

The Weekend Track is offered to qualified students, who are able to complete the program in the traditional two-year period by meeting more stringent program

entrance requirements. They complete their studies on Friday evenings and Saturday and Sunday mornings.

This isn't the first effort the college has made to expand opportunity to begin a career as a Registered Nurse. A One-Year Advanced Option in Nursing, which offers accelerated training for eligible students, began in 2019 with nine students and increased to 24 students in May 2021; it now accommodates 30 students.

The Nursing Department also continues to offer a full-time day program, which serves about 60 students, and a part-time evening program, which can accommodate 45 students.

New Aviation Maintenance Technical School To Be Established with Albany Airport

Hudson Valley is partnering with Albany International Airport to open a new Aeronautical Technology Institute and create an Aviation Maintenance Technician School (AMTS) located at the airport.

The AMTS will be an educational facility certificated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to train aircraft mechanics for careers in the airline industry, and it is envisioned as one part of the college's new institute. The institute also aims to offer both degree and certificate programs and non-credit, short-term workforce training programs taught by college faculty.

Programs and courses will be conducted at the Albany International Airport, which will have more than 12,000 square feet of classrooms, labs and shop space for instruction and hands-on training when renovations are completed later this year.

A 2019-2020 Aviation Technician Education Council Pipeline Report noted that 33 percent of airframe and power plant technicians in the country are at or nearing retirement age and the industry will need to produce another 2,700 mechanics per year to meet the national demand over the next two decades.



Hudson Valley Community College Board of Trustees Chairman Neil Kelleher and President Ramsammy

WATCH OUR AERONAUTICAL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCEMENT VIDEO:



College Opens Veteran Resource and Outreach Center on Campus

On the eve of Veterans Day 2021, Hudson Valley Community College officially opened its new Veteran Resource and Outreach Center (VET-ROC) in the Siek Campus Center.

The VET-ROC is the focal point for veterans and the military-connected community on campus. Located on the first floor of the campus center, it houses the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Program of Rensselaer County, which offers non-clinical peer-to-peer support for any Rensselaer County veteran and works to help all Capital Region veterans reintegrate into civilian society.

More than 70 years ago, the Veterans Vocational Institute – the forerunner of what was to become Hudson Valley Community College – was established with the goal of providing career training for veterans returning from World War II and the Korean War. Through the decades, the college has continued to offer focused services and educational opportunities for active duty military members and student veterans and has established numerous scholarships aimed at veterans or those currently serving in the Armed Forces. Now serving approximately 300 student veterans each year, the college cemented its ongoing commitment to veterans' education with the creation of this new center.

"We are proud to demonstrate that Hudson Valley remains a veteran-friendly institution committed to helping all who have served our nation," said President Roger Ramsammy at the grand opening of the center. "Our new Veterans Resource and Outreach Center is an invaluable resource for hundreds of students and residents of our greater community. I extend my thanks to those who have worked so hard to make our vision for a new home for military students and student veterans a reality."

Funds for establishing the center came through a bi-partisan effort in the New York State Legislature to fund the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Programs in counties across the state. The peer-to-peer support program has proven successful in assisting veterans since it was first established in Suffolk County in 2012 and has grown across the state since then. The program is named in honor of Joseph Dwyer, an Iraq War veteran from Long Island.

Rensselaer County was awarded \$145,000 in the 2021 state budget to implement the program, and Hudson Valley Community College was seen as an ideal place to house it and its two full-time staff members to enhance services to both students and members of the community.



Wreaths Across America's Escort to Arlington Visits Hudson Valley

Wreaths Across America's Escort to Arlington—the longest veterans' parade in the country—made a stop at Hudson Valley Community College's McDonough Sports Complex for a special ceremony honoring veterans and service members of the United States Armed Forces and their families on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021.

Wreaths Across America is a national organization with a mission to remember our fallen U.S. service members, honor those who serve, and teach children the value of freedom. Through donations, the organization collects wreaths to lay at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 3,100 additional participating locations across the country each December. A caravan of more than a dozen tractor trailers transported a portion of these wreaths from Maine during the annual Escort to Arlington on Dec. 11-18, 2021.

After stopping at Hudson Valley for a ceremony and special remarks, the caravan traveled down the East Coast, stopping at schools, memorials, and other locations along the way to spread the mission to REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH. The Hudson Valley Community College stop was the first of only two made in New York State for the year, and was the largest, with hundreds in attendance. The visit also included a stop by the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit, and information for veterans, service members and their families on resources available to them.

International Center of the Capital Region Moves Headquarters to Hudson Valley Community College

The International Center of the Capital Region (ICCR) has moved its headquarters onto the college's campus.

ICCR is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 to promote cultural understanding by welcoming international leaders and newcomers to the Capital Region. After being headquartered in various locations since its founding, the organization has now relocated to the Hudson Valley's Fitzgibbons Health Technologies Center, in a space shared with the college's Office of Global Initiatives. Educating the greater community and having a positive global impact are essential parts of both Hudson Valley and the ICCR's missions, making this an intuitive and mutually beneficial partnership.

"Hudson Valley is excited to welcome the International Center of the Capital Region to campus," said President Roger Ramsammy. "The college serves students from nearly 40 countries each year, and we are working

to expand our international outreach efforts. This is an opportunity for the college and ICCR to work together to develop partnerships and programs that will serve our global communities even more effectively."

"ICCR's move to campus will help foster a synergistic relationship between our two organizations," added Hudson Valley's Coordinator for Global Initiatives Dr. Jay Deitchman. "This relationship will strengthen ICCR's efforts to offer citizen diplomacy experiences, while allowing the college to increase its global presence."

"This partnership puts ICCR in the middle of campus and community activities and fosters new collaborations with the students and staff at Hudson Valley," said ICCR Executive Director Ryan Moll. "We are thrilled to be working alongside Hudson Valley, and look forward to this new opportunity."



HVCC and ICCR officials at the ICCR grand opening on campus

For many years, ICCR has hosted visitors through the International Visitor Leadership Program, the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. On short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging foreign leaders experience the Capital Region through a variety of field experiences among several professions. Some recent examples include hosting Armenian parliament members researching the legislative process of New York State; visitors from Lithuania who met local officials and discussed managing successful public infrastructure projects; and healthcare administrators from Ukraine seeking to learn about our region's hospital system.

WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT THE VETERAN RESOURCE AND OUTREACH CENTER



International Outreach

With an eye toward an increasingly global future, the college has made it a priority in recent years to expand international outreach efforts around the world. Here are a few recent accomplishments:

- College officials traveled to several international locations to forge new partnerships and attract new students. International student enrollment is up, and related annual revenue has exceeded \$1 million.
- Hudson Valley launched the Global Classroom High School program, currently serving 23 countries. High school students outside the United States can register to take college-level courses delivered asynchronously online, and upon completing the courses successfully, will receive college credit. Credits can

be applied to Hudson Valley Community College programs or transferred to most four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

- President Ramsammy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Costa Rican Ministry of Education to provide English as a Foreign Language instruction to 1,000 public school teachers. He has also signed an MOU with Cámara Nacional de la Educación Privada (CANAE), a consortium of educational institutions in Costa Rica, as well as MOUs with several Costa Rican high schools to formalize the college's plans to provide education services and program delivery through various modes of instruction.

Electric Vehicle Train-the-Trainer Program



- Hudson Valley established an Electric Vehicle Train-the-Trainer program with the Corporación Educativa Automotriz (CEA) in Costa Rica, and welcomed representatives from the program for its inaugural training session in May of 2022.
- College officials visited Denmark and Canada to learn about specialized labs and programs that will be needed to train workers for jobs at the future offshore wind tower plant to be built at the Port of Albany.



College and county officials at the VET-ROC grand opening on campus



William Kappes

William Kappes Receives 2022 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence

William Kappes, a custodial worker at the college for the past 15 years, was named as a 2022 recipient of the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service. He currently works in the Viking Child Care Center as well as Cogan and Williams Halls, where many of the Applied Technology programs such as Automotive Technical Services and Electrical Construction and Maintenance are housed. Due to the variety of lab spaces, these buildings provide an extra challenge for custodial workers. Campus faculty and staff who

nominated Kappes for the SUNY-wide honor noted his commitment to his work and his willingness to step in whenever and wherever he is needed. Kappes is an alumnus of the college, having earned his A.A.S. in Business Administration in 2007.

Instituted in 1972 by the State University of New York, the Chancellor's Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the university by dedicated professionals. Since its inception, nearly 200 faculty and staff members from Hudson Valley have received the Chancellor's Award.

Retirees

The following faculty and staff members have retired during the past year (as of Sept. 2022):

MICHAEL ANDERSON, Assistant Professor, Applied Technologies

CHERYL BEAUCHAMP, Director of Grants

MARIANNE BELLES, Professor, Dental Hygiene

DR. LAURIE M. BRADLEY, Associate Professor, Biology, Chemistry and Physics

DEBORAH CAMPAGNA, Professor, Nursing and Surgical Technology

ROBERT CONNOLLY, Offset Printer, Creative Services

JOHN K. DYSON, Technical Assistant, Computer Learning Center

JOSEPH FORGET, Associate Professor, EOC Culinary Training

ROCHELLE GOLDFARB, Assistant Professor, Engineering, Architecture, Construction, Computer Science and Mathematics

KEITH GUNNER, Education Specialist/ Assistant Professor, Biology, Chemistry and Physics

MARA LEFEBVRE, Assistant Director, Office of Special Events and Facilities Utilization

DR. LUCILLE MARION, Vice President and Executive Director, Capital District Educational Opportunity Center

SANDRA J. MYERS, Technical Assistant, Financial Aid

MARIA C. POLLACK, Assistant Professor, English, Foreign Languages and English as a Second Language

ANDREW SCHOTT, Professor, Education and Social Sciences

DOMINICK SCHWARTZ, Custodial Worker

CHRISTOPHER G. TESTO, HVAC Technician, Facilities

DONNA TOTARO, Assistant Director, Center for Access and Assistive Technology

THOMAS TOWSLEY, Campus Peace Officer, Public Safety

GAIL VAN WIE, Program Assistant, Academics III, Human Services and Chemical Dependency Counseling

RICHARD G. WOOD JR., Professor, Engineering, Architecture, Construction, Computer Science and Mathematics

Scholarship Honors Long-time Director of Financial Aid

For 25 years, Lisa Van Wie Heiser was dedicated to looking out for the best interests of Hudson Valley's students.

As assistant director, associate director and, finally, director of the college's Financial Aid Office, Lisa worked tirelessly to ensure every student got the financial aid they deserved.

"She was incredibly dedicated to her job," said her husband, John Heiser, the college's director of Creative Services. "She worked nights, weekends, and she always had the students as her primary focus."

At the age of 57, Lisa lost a lengthy but valiant fight with cancer in November 2021, and shortly thereafter, colleagues began a scholarship fund in her memory through the college Foundation.

Having spent a large portion of her professional life at Hudson Valley, Lisa had an opportunity to mentor dozens of colleagues. She was known as a straight shooter but was unfailingly upbeat and encouraging.

"She was really an inspiration for me," said Emma Teal, a work-study student in the Financial Aid Office back in 2014, who worked summers in the office while attending The College of Saint Rose. Teal returned to the college and is now one of the assistant directors in the Financial Aid Office. "Her job was a big part of her life and she was just completely dedicated to her role here. She gave everything she could to the students."

When fully endowed, the Lisa Van Wie Heiser Memorial Scholarship will be offered to a Nursing program student who does not qualify for state or federal aid but can show a need for financial assistance due to other circumstances.

Visit www.hvcc.edu/giving/online.html and select "Lisa Van Wie Heiser Memorial Scholarship" from the designation list to contribute to the fund. The Heiser and Van Wie families will graciously match all donations received until the overall scholarship fund reaches endowment level.



VISIT TO GIVE TODAY:



WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT THE HEALTH SCIENCE SIM DAY



Health Science Sim Day 2022

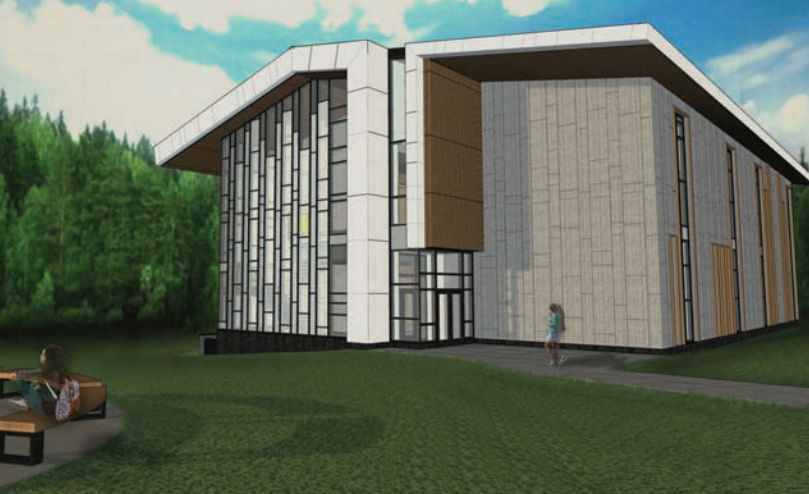
The School of Health Sciences held a day-long series of simulated, "real life" scenarios this spring to test the skills and cooperation of Nursing, Respiratory Care, Paramedic, Radiologic Technology, Polysomnography and Mortuary Science students.

More than 100 students were involved in the simulation day at the college's 400 Jordan Road facility, along with college faculty and physicians from Albany Medical Center. First-year students and volunteers acted as mock patients and family members for scenarios, and high-fidelity mannequins were used as well. The Mortuary Science program provided mourners for the deceased, and Tom Moran, an Albany Medical Center staff member, provided

"moulage" to give the patients a realistic appearance of the conditions presented.

Respiratory Care faculty member Dave TenEyck coordinated the preparation and event set up, and more than 30 faculty members from the participating programs supervised throughout the day's events.





Hudson Valley Breaks Ground on New STEM Education Center at HVCC North

Hudson Valley Community College broke ground June 29, 2022 on a new STEM Education Center at the college's HVCC North extension center, located in NYSERDA's Saratoga Technology and Energy Park (STEP®) in Malta, NY. The new two-story, 14,500 square foot building will include brand new, state-of-the-art labs for microbiology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry and biology, as well as classrooms, student support space and offices.

The center is one part of the college's \$12.5 million HVCC North expansion project. In combination with renovations to the college's existing Training and Education Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing and Alternative and Renewable Technologies (TEC-SMART) facility, the new STEM Education Center is a key component of the college's plans to increase access to education and workforce training opportunities at HVCC North.

When completed in Fall 2023, HVCC North will create the space and resources needed to allow the college to increase access and broaden education and workforce training opportunities in the highly specialized and growing fields of healthcare, STEM and skilled trades. All of these industries are experiencing a high demand for qualified workers and a skills gap that continues to widen exponentially with time. HVCC North will allow the college to train hundreds of graduates and address urgent industry needs—while keeping the workforce local and providing a significant economic boost for the Capital Region.

More than 1,500 students commute to Hudson Valley's main campus in Troy from Saratoga, Hamilton, Fulton, Warren and Washington counties. This expansion project will allow the college to serve approximately 1,100 students in more than 30 degree, certificate and pathway programs, as well as non-credit, short-term workforce and professional education offerings.

The need for qualified workers has long been expressed by several businesses and organizations in Saratoga County and throughout the Capital Region, which makes the HVCC North project even more timely, as the facility will increase access to credit and non-credit career programs and allow the college to train a larger share of the workforce faster.

"Hudson Valley Community College is thrilled to break ground on our new STEM Education Center as part of this vital HVCC North expansion project," said President Ramsammy. "As the needs of our local employers continue to evolve, it is our goal to continue to be the local leader in training the workforce of the future. The development of HVCC North will allow us to do just that, and we are very thankful for the support of our leaders and officials, community and business partners as we work to expand reach and access for the students of our region and train those students to fill the jobs our local industries need to thrive."

At the groundbreaking, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Chairman and Town of Moreau Supervisor Theodore

T. Kusnierz, Jr. said, "The County of Saratoga is excited to support this expansion of HVCC North in Malta. Today's groundbreaking is a welcomed next step in the college's important role in developing a strong, highly skilled workforce that will help sustain the economic vitality of our county. I would like to thank President Ramsammy and his team at HVCC for choosing to expand in Saratoga County."

So far, major contributions to the college Foundation's capital campaign have been made by New York State Empire State Development, a SUNY2020 grant, Saratoga County, and GlobalFoundries, as well as Northern Borders, the Hearst Foundations, The Stewarts Shops and Dake Family, M&T Bank, MVP Healthcare, and Janitronics, plus gifts from alumnus Peter Alexander, Cory Martin and Raimundo Archibold of the Schwartz Heslin Group, and Todd Salaika of Merrill Lynch, to name a few.

In 2021, GlobalFoundries announced a \$500,000 gift to the Foundation that will create a Workforce Training and Apprenticeship Center at HVCC North. The gift will help upgrade the college's existing facilities and create new ones, including an advanced Radio Frequency/Vacuum Technology laboratory, an innovative Mechatronics laboratory, and the modernization of the Clean Room laboratory currently located at TEC-SMART.

U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko has also named the HVCC North project as one

of 15 FY2023 Community Funding Projects that he submitted for funding of \$2,065,000 to the House Committee on Appropriations for federal funding contributions, and he visited the site in early June of 2022 to learn more about the project and its benefit to the regional workforce and economy.

In addition to the newly constructed STEM Education Center, the college will make improvements to TEC-SMART, which opened in 2010 and hosts the innovative and highly successful Clean Technologies Early College High School, a partnership with Ballston Spa Central School District. Plans include:

- Renovating two classrooms and two labs for the Electrical Construction and Maintenance (A.O.S.).
- Renovating two existing general education classrooms for the Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration Technical Services (A.O.S.).
- Updating computer labs to offer courses in augmented/virtual reality, artificial intelligence and machine learning as part of the college's Computer Information Systems programs.
- Outfitting the mock clean room with world-class semiconductor equipment and labs with vacuum training and radio frequency training systems.



Chasing John Gray

Author and alum talks books, dogs, and making a difference

Hudson Valley alumnus John Gray '83 has published six books; lives with five dogs (three with special needs); won four Emmy awards; has enjoyed a successful three-decade career as a journalist; and has amassed nearly 200,000 social media followers. But he does it all for one main reason: standing up for the underdog.

"I'm a champion of animals or people who are a little beaten up or broken by life," says Gray. "I want to help them out."

And he certainly does. The NEWS10 ABC anchor has long been a household name in the Capital Region, but over the past few years,

he's gained an even wider audience as an author—and a dog lover. Gray's children's books: "God Needed A Puppy," "Keller's Heart," and "Sweet Polly Petals," (two of which were inspired by Gray's own dogs), along with his series of novels, "Manchester Christmas," "Chasing Manhattan," and the just-released "Chasing Rome," have become an inspiration for people of all ages from around the globe, with messages of acceptance, awareness, and the importance of helping others.

"The common thread between them all is the idea of a kind stranger meeting someone in need and deciding to help them," he says. "Each of the books has that character that says—who can I help today?"

It's a question that Gray asks himself daily. The success of his books has allowed him

just one book seemed an unlikely dream. But five years ago, a series of real-life plot twists began to unfold, starting with a tragedy that Gray chose to use as an opportunity to do good.

In 2017, Gray and his wife, Courtney, unexpectedly lost their six-month-old German Shepherd, Samuel. The two had said goodbye to pets before, but never one this young, or this suddenly. The grief was enormous, and the loss seemed nonsensical, but out of it came something else unexpected—the idea for a book that could help children navigate the loss of a beloved pet.

So, Gray did what he does best—sat down to write a story that could turn something tragic into something helpful and encouraging. The result was his first children's book: "God Needed A Puppy." In it, a fox and an owl help a young boy whose dog has passed away, and, in kid-friendly terms, explain the function of grief, the importance of hope, and the comforting message that goodbyes are not forever, and good things can—and do—follow bad.

The book helped Gray find closure, and he and Courtney went on to adopt two more German Shepherds, Winston and Sebastian. Then, later in 2017, Gray was volunteering at an animal shelter when he stumbled across another puppy that would change his life. Keller, a blind and deaf Australian Shepherd, was brought into the shelter after being abandoned and left to die. When Gray heard his story, he knew that he had the perfect home for Keller—his own. He and Courtney welcomed the blind and deaf puppy into their pack, and big brothers Winston and Sebastian accepted him immediately as one of their own.

Keller thrived in his new home, and the Grays were amazed at what the blind and deaf puppy could accomplish. "A blind dog treats it as part of life that sometimes they'll bump into something and that's okay," Gray says—something he says we humans can take

a lesson from. "All you need is a little bit of patience. You just need to give them time to show you what they can do."

It turned out that Keller could do quite a bit—and his influence extended far beyond what anyone had anticipated. Gray shared Keller's story on his Facebook page, John Gray Writer, and the once-abandoned puppy quickly became a celebrity in his own right. His story and Gray's chronicling of his daily life inspired others to adopt dogs with special needs—and living it inspired the Grays themselves. They adopted two more Australian Shepherd puppies, Eli and Bella, in 2019 and 2020, both of whom were born deaf.

In the meantime, Keller served as the inspiration for Gray's second book, "Keller's Heart," a story about a deaf girl who finds and rescues a blind and deaf puppy who shows her the meaning of true acceptance and love. It became an instant hit, with its message of compassion, acceptance, and representation for both people and dogs with disabilities. Gray has continued to spread the message, through readings at elementary schools and book signings all over the state. In the process, he's been able to see the impact of Keller's story firsthand.

"One of the most moving moments for me was when a girl who was about 17 showed up to a book signing for "Keller's Heart" in Schenectady," Gray recalls. "I could see her in line to meet me and could see that she was signing with her mother. It turned out they drove from Connecticut to meet me because



Sebastian, Bella, Eli, Keller and Winston

"Keller's Heart" made such an impact on this girl. She was deaf, and she said that growing up, she could never find a children's book where the hero was a deaf girl. That really struck me."

In 2022, Keller helped the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society raise \$30,000 in one week as part of their annual Gala for Animals, at which the special pup was a guest of honor. But, tragically, Keller would pass away just a few months later, after a sudden series of seizures his body simply could not recover from. He was only five years old. Once again, the Grays were plunged into shock and grief. The fans who had come to love Keller were heartbroken as well. But there was comfort to be found in the undeniable fact that Keller's legacy lives on—immortalized in the story of "Keller's Heart," and also within the hearts of those who have, in turn, been touched by his story.

"Keller gave us more than we gave him," Gray says. "He made us better people—watching how he navigated the world inspired us to be more patient with other people, and more kind."

Understandably, after losing Keller, adopting another dog was the furthest thing from the Grays' minds. But fate had other plans, and in another plot twist, they soon learned about another blind and deaf Australian Shepherd puppy who needed a home. Just over a month after saying goodbye to Keller, they invited Rosie into the pack, joining Bella, Eli, Winston and Sebastian to bring the total of dogs in the

her happy, spunky, carefree and capable puppy attitude in just a few short weeks—just like Gray knew they would.

"I share videos of Rosie to show people not to be afraid to give these pups a chance," Gray says. "They're not 'poor little things.' They are the way they are, and they're fine! They're loving and fun, and they're easier than they seem. If you just watch, you will see all that they can do—because they will show you."

Make no mistake—people are watching. Thanks to his willingness to share an inside look at life with his pack, Gray's inbox is full of messages from people he has inspired to adopt their own special needs pets. But that's just one of many ways his dogs and books have helped him give back. In addition to the awareness he has raised and the message of kindness he spreads, Gray champions a cause for each of his books, donating a portion of the proceeds to charities across the country.

His first five books have allowed him to donate to animal shelters and homeless shelters; support the Wounded Warrior Project; and establish the Taylor Farnsworth Scholarship, in memory of NEWS10 producer Taylor Farnsworth, who passed away unexpectedly in 2019 at the age of 22. His latest book, "Chasing Rome," was just released in the fall of 2022; and while Gray has not yet announced which cause will benefit from the proceeds, rest assured there will be one.

Fans have long awaited the release of "Chasing Rome." Just like with his children's books, legions of folks have fallen in love with Gray's novels, which follow Chase Harrington and her fiancé, Gavin, from Vermont, to New York City, and finally to Italy, as they fall in love, solve mysteries, and, of course, help others. Part wholesome romance, part mystery, Gray says the books offer something for everyone.

"If you like a story about interesting people and a smart woman who looks for ways to help others around her and doesn't think of herself first, this series is for you," explains Gray. "Every book is a puzzle you have to solve with her. There is mystery and intrigue, but not so much 'peril.'" That's intentional, he says. "My goal when I finish a story is to feel a little bit better about life, rather than getting all worked up, so my books have more of a theme that leaves you feeling hopeful about the world—hopefully."

In some ways, "Chasing Rome" marks the end of an era. It's the final installment in a trilogy that Gray's fans have fallen in love with. The first installment, "Manchester Christmas," has been optioned for a movie, so there is a chance that the whole series

may find a second life on the silver screen, and Gray is open to screenwriting as his next adventure. But "Chasing Rome" is the last novel he has plans to write—for now. Though the series is ending, he says that fans who have fallen in love with Chase and Gavin's adventures won't be disappointed. "I think there are even more surprises in the final book than in the first two," he says. "Chase goes to all corners of Italy pursuing these clues that are presented to her, and, much like in life, nothing turns out exactly as she'd expect or maybe like it to—but it's ok."

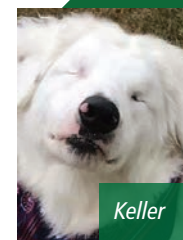
It's an appropriate lesson to share from someone who has experienced so many highs and lows on the journey to get to where he is today. So, reflecting on all of it—the books, the dogs, the difference he's made—what's the most fulfilling part of being John Gray?

"Well, with the dogs, everyday life with them is fun, they're a reward in themselves," he says. "But with writing, reaching people with a good story and having them react to that is the most rewarding thing—it's a way to spread a little kindness in the world. I think of it like this: I can either contribute to the world's nonsense or try to do something nicer when I can. And I'd rather do something nicer."

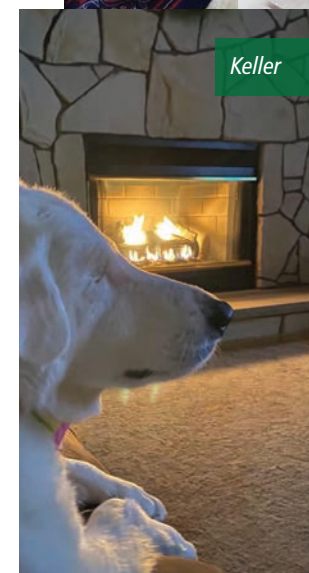
Even a blind dog—or maybe especially a blind dog—can see that he's done just that.



Rosie with big brother Sebastian



Keller



Keller



Rosie

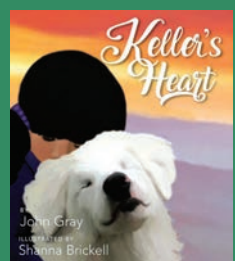
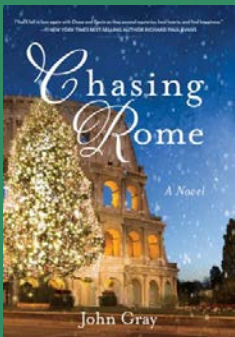
WHAT JOHN GRAY SAYS ABOUT HIS TIME AT HUDSON VALLEY

"I had some great teachers who were very hands-on—they knew my name, I knew them and that made a difference in terms of wanting to go to class and wanting to learn. One of them was Maureen Hood—she taught a short story class as an elective and I just fell in love with the class and with her teaching, how she presented reading and what you can pull and learn from stories. In "Manchester Christmas," there's a point where the fictional writer contacts her old teacher to ask for advice, and I named the teacher Maureen Hood as a kind of tribute."

John Gray graduated from Hudson Valley Community College in 1983 and served as the editor of The Hudsonian, the college's student newspaper.

Gray household back up to five. Adopting her was, as Gray posted on his Facebook page after introducing her, "serendipitous." She is already carrying on Keller's legacy, serving as an ambassador for dogs with special needs. Gray's followers have fallen in love, en masse, with

Gray's latest book, "Chasing Rome," is available now.



a new platform to give back, he says, and he considers it a responsibility to do so—one that he takes on gratefully. After all, it wasn't that long ago that the idea of publishing even

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All the Hard Work Pays Off for Criminal Justice Graduate Joseph Mumtaz

Joe Mumtaz, a 2022 Criminal Justice major, realized early on that you have to sacrifice a little to gain a lot.

Four years ago, he and his wife, Kayla, were working in unfulfilling jobs and both knew they needed to jumpstart their career prospects through higher education.

Enter Hudson Valley Community College. Kayla started first, graduating with honors from Hudson Valley in 2020, and Joe continued to work for another year before he began his degree path here.

As the parents of two young boys—now ages seven and five—and a two-year-old little girl, the past few years have been a lesson in hard work and humility. Relying on a small income from part-time jobs, financial aid and loans, they've somehow made it work.

"Our schedule is ridiculous – wake up 5 a.m., bring the boys to school. Bring my wife to work. Get back to Troy, daughter goes to day care, and then my day starts. Two o'clock, I pick up my daughter from day care, bring her to grandma's house, get the boys from school. Go back to my job again. There were times when we didn't have a car so we walked to buses to bring the kids to school and then go to school ourselves."

Strangely enough, the lockdowns associated with COVID were somewhat of a blessing in disguise. "We were all together. The two boys and Kayla and I all doing our school work on our laptops," Joe said with a laugh.

Over the past year, things have been coming together for the young family, and Joe said he feels like the plan he and Kayla mapped out for their future a few years back is becoming clearer.

With Kayla landing a new job in the New York State Assembly and Joe continuing his work for the Rensselaer County Conflict Defenders office, a more settled – or at least less hectic – future is definitely in their sights. Over the course of the past year, their income has



risen 450 percent, and the couple recently purchased a house to create a more stable environment for their kids. That's a huge life changer.

"I want my kids, when they are 10 or 13 years old, I want them to see a good life. Nothing amazing – a house with a spacious yard, maybe the opportunity for them to have their own bedroom, a vacation every year. That's about it," he said.

Joe hopes to enter the probation field, an interest that stems in part from some struggles he had growing up and the real need he sees now to bring a caring and compassionate voice to the juvenile justice system.

"My goal has always been to become a parole or probation officer, working with adolescents. When I was young, I did a few things that might have landed me in jail, but I never got caught for them. Other kids aren't as lucky -

bad family, or just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. I want to impact someone's life for the positive, even if it's just to be there to listen when they need to talk. Having kids has given me a new perspective on life."

When Joe walked across the stage this spring to receive his Criminal Justice associate degree, he did so knowing his wife would be receiving her bachelor's degree from the University at Albany the following day. Their road to a better future isn't over yet, but victories along the way are definitely worth celebrating, he said.

"Because of COVID, we never had a real party after (Kayla's) graduation from Hudson Valley, but we made up for it this year. Friends and family came from around the country – Texas, North Carolina, Florida. It's a big deal for both of us."

Class of 2022's Youngest Graduate Forging Her Own Education Path

On first meeting her, you'll find teenager Blanca Parker is confident, intelligent and has an inquisitive love of numbers and the science of mathematics. She is poised and answers questions with a thoughtful, professional demeanor.

After starting her college studies two years ago at just 14 years old, Blanca was Hudson Valley Community College's youngest 2022 graduate this spring, at the ripe old age of 17.

As she neared the end of middle school, Blanca and her family were looking for alternative ways she could continue her exploration of mathematics—a subject that had long fascinated her. With her intelligence and inquisitive nature, she needed something challenging and flexible enough to meet her needs. During the summer after eighth grade—for fun, she said—she took a college-level Personal Finance course at Hudson Valley.

"I'm just someone who loves to learn, so I decided to take a class during the summer after eighth grade. I loved it and wanted to see if it was

something I could continue in the fall," she said.

As a 15-year-old, and already advanced enough to start the Calculus sequence, Blanca started to take a few college-level courses each semester to complement additional work she was completing as a homeschooled student.

Eventually, she became a full-time student and entered what's known as the college's 24-Credit Hour Program, which allows students to complete their high school equivalency diploma while attending college. She graduated this spring, having earned her high school diploma and an associate degree in Liberal Arts: Math and Science.

"Math is something that I've always loved. When I was very young, I became fascinated with numbers and puzzles, but as I've gotten older, I've become more interested in its role in history and its impact on technology, architecture, engineering. All those fields, there's usually a mathematical component hidden in there somewhere."

She's truly excelled in her studies, earning President's List honors in each semester she's been eligible and a 4.0 GPA. And, despite her youth, Blanca said she's had little trouble fitting in with her fellow students. "I worried about it a little bit in the beginning, but my classmates have always been really nice to me. I don't think people treat me like a 17-year-old, they just treat me like a student. At Hudson Valley, I really feel like I fit."

Her professors have not only been encouraging, they've also embraced her interest in studying beyond the classroom. "The faculty are really so welcoming and they're passionate about teaching. If I want to explore a subject, or look into something I might not know about, they don't see it as a problem. They encourage me," she said.

When she graduated with the first of what will likely be many college degrees this year, Blanca was thinking of her grandfather, a University at Albany Anthropology professor who was the main inspiration for her love of learning and who encouraged her to jump ahead with college courses.

"He was the biggest supporter of my alternative educational plans and he was also my best friend," she said.

In April 2020, during her first year at Hudson Valley, Blanca lost her grandfather to cancer. She was devastated and said she found it difficult to continue her education without his support.

"He was there for me throughout my school career as I dealt with issues like bullying and health conditions. He taught me to love learning, even about notoriously difficult subjects or areas like English that were outside of my comfort zone."

Wherever her future studies take her, she'll always appreciate the start Hudson Valley gave her and she'll always cherish the inspiration of her grandfather.

"He is still my greatest source of motivation," she said.

VIEW 2022 COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS:



ALUMNI PROFILES

Fall 2022

Valley View

Alumni Forge Fitness Careers

Fitness is a \$33 billion-dollar industry in the United States, and with an expected 39 percent increase in fitness-related jobs over the next ten years, it's also a growing avenue for Hudson Valley alumni to build careers.

Nearly 10 years ago, Health, Physical Education

and Exercise Studies Department chairperson Colleen Ferris helped create several new degree and certificate programs aimed at those who were interested in entering the fields of fitness, health and wellness or those who want to continue their higher education in bachelor's

degree programs like exercise science and nutrition.

We talked with four recent alumni who used their Hudson Valley Community College education to help launch a foray into the business of fitness.

Chris Wertman '20 (Legacy Fitness)

Although interested in power lifting, body building and fitness since his teens, Chris Wertman said he wasn't one of those students who desperately wanted to open his own gym after graduating from college.

But somehow, the combination of COVID lockdowns and an opportunity to help out a few friends and neighbors who needed training snowballed over the past three years. Along the way, Chris realized that helping others achieve their fitness goals gave him a previously-untapped sense of accomplishment.

"This is my platform for helping as many people as possible," he said, looking around the newest iteration of Legacy Fitness on Carman Road in Guilderland. "It goes way beyond the fitness aspect."

Chris' story has more than a few twists and turns that ultimately culminated in the opening of his new gym in December 2021. Just a year

and a half earlier, with a bachelor's degree from SUNY Oneonta and his Exercise Science degree from Hudson Valley finished, he was all set to begin a Nutrition and Dietetics master's program at Oneonta. But when COVID moved that program completely online, he began to seriously ponder his future: "I just couldn't see myself sitting in front of a computer for 12 months to complete this right now."

Putting his education on hold, Chris got a job at GNC and, soon after, received a call from a family friend who needed some help training. "I've always had a gym in my parent's basement, so why not start there," he thought.

A few weeks later, more friends showed up, and as the months rolled on, he grew a clientele of acquaintances and a handful of high school athletes who were preparing for upcoming seasons. That can crowd a suburban basement pretty quickly.

Luckily, a friend, who was also a general contractor, had a duplex garage that was going unused in Guilderland, and the pair worked evenings and weekends wiring and lighting and loading in equipment.

Legacy Fitness, humble but growing, had moved out of the basement and into the garage. Less than a year later, still working full-time at GNC and now overseeing all its Capital Region stores, Chris was searching for a new space that could provide some permanency to his growing fitness community. After looking at dozens of properties around the Capital Region, he found his current location on Carman Road. "The moment I saw this place, I knew it was the right one," he said.

Again, the move and renovation of the new facility was a community effort. High school athletes he was training, friends, and family members helped move in the equipment, paint the walls and get ready to open the newest iteration of his dream.

That word, "community," comes up a lot when you speak to Chris, especially about his vision for Legacy Fitness and why he thinks it will prosper.

"For me there's no healthier outlet in life than fitness. It's a great way to relieve stress, but there is a component beyond that that we are building here at Legacy Fitness — a community. We're all working at becoming healthier and becoming better versions of ourselves," he said. "I just want to lead by example, and make sure that every person who walks through those doors I can build a personal connection with. My success comes with impacting people and helping them make their lives better."

Anthony Demetriou '08 (Train HD)

Anthony Demetriou said what sets his Loudonville-based gym, Train HD, apart is the scientific and analytical approach taken to each client's current situation and their future goals.

"Everyone who starts to train with us is provided with a personal roadmap, and I think this is really what separates us from others. We try to make everything as individualized as possible. Movement screening and metabolic testing is standard for everyone who comes through the door, and we want to see the whole health of the person," he said. "Then, it's test and re-test to see if the plan is actually working."

Anthony came to Hudson Valley from the town of Pine Bush in Orange County to pursue his interest in physical education. "I had some friends who were going to SUNY Albany and came up with them because I saw that Hudson Valley had a Physical Education program," he said.

After a year or so at Hudson Valley, he realized teaching physical education might not be his life's ambition, but he was fascinated by the intricacies of exercise science and human physiology, and he credits Hudson Valley faculty with beginning what has become a lifelong interest in those subjects. After graduating from Hudson Valley, Anthony continued his education in exercise science at Manhattan College, and he's currently completing a doctoral program in Exercise Physiology from Concordia University.

Train HD has been in business for six years and has a steady clientele who come for classes and personal training. From the start, Anthony said, he wanted Train HD to not only provide a scientific foundation for his clients' fitness but also to focus on creating a welcoming atmosphere. If it feels like a clubhouse, he said, people will be more likely to stick around.



"I can remember two professors who shaped what I wanted to do. I took Anatomy and Physiology I and II—Dr. Jeff Thompson and Dr. Laura Mastrangelo—who I will never forget, because they helped shape my interest in exercise physiology. Hudson Valley is completely different since I graduated—the whole parking garage, the athletic complex—it's beautiful." — Anthony Demetriou

"Fitness is the byproduct of the community that happens here. People come in with initial goals, whether it's to lose weight or build strength, but the way you keep a business like this running is you build community," he said. "Most classes here, people come in and they don't know each other, but they get to know each other through the gym. We want people to know that they will be missed if they don't show up for a class. On any day or any time, you can find people out in the Train HD lobby having a cup of coffee."

Adam Fox '19 & Jacob Carroll '18 (Connected Community Health Support)

"Our goal was to just try to make health and fitness more accessible to people. And when we started out, we weren't thinking of this as a business. The idea came from the fact that we were in grad school and we wanted to figure out how to do something that will help the community. At the height of the pandemic, there just wasn't any option to go to the gym, so we saw this as something we could do," Jacob said.

Those videos — still available on YouTube — and the ability to create virtual one-on-one training sessions using interactive video technology was just the beginning for the duo back in 2020. They now see their business growing into something even more holistic and community-based.

The goal of Connected Community Health Support, they said, is to establish personal training hubs in communities around the state — maybe even nationwide — and to have outreach coordinators in selected areas to discover just what that community might need.

"Different communities will have different barriers to health and fitness. We're looking at how can we get into these communities, identify what the problems are and do some good within the community," Adam said. "The problems in a place like the city of Amsterdam might be much

different than what you might find in rural Saratoga County."

Connected Community Health Support now has five personal trainers who offer in-person or online training; the ability to set up tailored workout plans based on an individual's needs; an online community portal where clients can share their stories; and even a podcast that explores what Adam and Jacob consider the "7 pillars" of health — fitness, nutrition, sleep, social/environmental, mindset, policy change, personal finance.

Ambitious? Maybe. But these two are committed to more than just helping folks break their bench press record.

"A lot of what we're helping people with is very functional," Adam said. "We're not just focusing on the fitness part, but the overall general health and wellness of the individual."

"Shout out to athletic trainer Keith Thomas! I started as an intern in the athletic training office and then Jake came on a semester later. I give Keith and Hudson Valley a lot of credit for allowing us to be hands-on with the athletes when we were student athletic trainers. A lot of things I do today, I learned from that experience." — Adam Fox

"The Exercise Science program had just started the first year I was here. I was looking at other schools and thought, well, I really don't want to take a loan out. And I agree with what Adam said about Keith. He taught us the basics, how to tape an ankle, and obviously, if an athlete comes off the field and has an issue he'd be the one to do the initial muscle test but just being there to see how he did that and get to ask him questions after, was super valuable." — Jacob Carroll



"I loved my time at Hudson Valley. The teachers are incredible. My experience at HVCC helped me understand who I was as a person and also allowed me to connect with other people like me."

— Chris Wertman

ATHLETIC NEWS

The 2021-2022 academic year marked the first time the Vikings have been back to competitions since March 2020. Nearly 300 student-athletes participated in 20 sports for

Hudson Valley during this first year back, with great success. There were 88 Viking Student-athletes who received Individual All-American, All-Region, or All-Conference honors this year.

Hudson Valley Hosts 2022 NJCAA Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships

Hudson Valley hosted the 2022 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III Outdoor Track and Field National Championships at the Outdoor Athletic Complex. This three-day event ran from May 11-13, 2022 and included several victories for the Vikings.

- The Vikings men's program placed third overall.
- Freshman Charles Benichoux won the national championship in the men's 100-meter dash, and was also named U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA) Male Track Athlete of the Year.
- Freshman Olivia Skystad was named USTFCCA Female Track Athlete of the Year.



Vikings Win NJCAA Region 3 Community Service Award

For the fifth time in the last six years, Hudson Valley Community College was the recipient of the NJCAA Region 3 Community Service Award in recognition of the dedication and support the Athletics department and how the student-athletes have given back to the local community during the 2021-22 academic year.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive the Region 3 Community Service Award again, and it's a true testament to our student-athletes," said Athletic Director Justin Hoyt. "We wanted to make a positive impact throughout the community following the pandemic and continue to foster these relationships throughout the Capital Region and beyond."

Some of the Vikings' volunteer efforts during the 2021-22 year included:

- On Sept. 11, 2021, the Vikings football team held their third annual Military Appreciation Day, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The day featured a free BBQ luncheon, sponsored by Rensselaer County and Dinosaur BBQ, for all active duty military members and veterans and their families, held prior to the Vikings football game vs. Nassau. Hudson Valley's Department of Athletics and Veteran Resource and Outreach Center also presented the first annual Military

Appreciation Award to a local Veteran business owner.

- The 2021 football team joined the Hudson Valley Foundation in providing students with a free Thanksgiving meal kit. They were able to serve more than 120 Hudson Valley students and distributed more than 3,000 pounds of food.
- Hudson Valley's softball and men's lacrosse teams partnered with the college's Wellness Center for the Race Away Stigma 5K Race and Fun Walk during Homecoming 2021 at the college. The annual event benefits wellness programs and brings awareness to mental health concerns in collaboration with Project Aware and the Equinox Insight Program. Team members assisted with sign ups, race support and tabling for event sponsors and the Wellness Center.
- Members of the Vikings women's soccer team volunteered at Hudson Valley's annual PumpkinPalooza in 2021. This annual free event was created to provide local families a safe, friendly and festive environment for Halloween, and featured vendors, games, rides, treats, and free food for everyone. Student-athletes decorated the field house, assisted with carnival games, and dressed up in costumes to interact with the



children; they also helped supervise and clean up after the event.

- The Vikings baseball team volunteered at the 2021 Joseph Manupella Memorial Run, an annual 5K held in Troy honoring longtime Lansingburgh Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Joseph Manupella. The baseball team also teamed up with the Troy Baseball Expo to provide baseball instruction to the youth of Troy and the surrounding areas.
- The 2021 cross-country team upheld their program's tradition as they volunteered at the Northeastern Regional Food Bank, where they helped sort non-perishable food items as well as load and unload trucks filled with donated items.



Vikings Softball Team Sees Victory in First Year Back

Following three years without a softball program, the 2022 Vikings softball team was back with a vengeance for the Spring 2022 season. The team had a historic run this season, including a 17-game win streak that catapulted them into the No. 3 seed for the NJCAA Region 3 playoffs. The Vikings finished with 21 wins and a winning record for the first time since the 2015 season, when they earned a spot in the NJCAA National Tournament. During the 2022 season, they reached the NJCAA Region 3B Championship series for the first time since 2018.

When the NJCAA Region 3 and the Mountain Valley Conference released its 2022 softball All-Region and All-Conference teams, five Viking softball players received end-of-year honors for their tremendous season. Abigayle Campbell and Jody Rogers led the Vikings with All-Region First Team honors as well as First Team All-Conference recognition, while Katie Mannis, Shealynn Peckowitz and Maryssa Sano all were named to the All-Conference team. Meanwhile, Vikings Head Coach Rick Tedisco was named Region 3 Coach of the Year and Mountain Valley Conference Co-Coach of the Year.



Foundation Dedicates New Gordon N. '62 and Linda S. Zuckerman Alumni House

On Sept. 22, 2022, the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation held an official dedication ceremony for its new Gordon N. '62 and Linda S. Zuckerman Alumni House, located on Whitman Court in Troy.

The Foundation identified real estate ventures as a core priority during long-range strategic planning activities held in 2020. Purchased in 2021, the Alumni House is the Foundation's first investment property, and it will serve as a venue for Foundation and Alumni Association cultivation activities. It will also be the official residence of the college president and a space to host guests of the Foundation and college.

This historic house – designed by renowned architect Marcus Cummings with his son, Frederick – was purchased with unrestricted Foundation funds and a leadership gift from class of 1962 alumnus Gordon Zuckerman.

Zuckerman has served on the Foundation board since 2004, as chairperson from 2013 to

2015, and as an executive committee member from 2015 to present. In 2007, he established a scholarship fund that honors his late wife, Linda, a business professor for 45 years at SUNY Adirondack. He was instrumental in fundraising activities for the college's Promise of our Region and Science Center capital campaigns, and continues to contribute to the college's Foundation and champion its mission.

"Hudson Valley Community College and the Foundation are deeply thankful to Gordon for his commitment to making the new Alumni House a reality," said Vice President of External and Government Relations and Foundation Executive Director Regina LaGatta '73. "Gordon has been a strong supporter of the establishment of an Alumni House for many years, but we needed to find the right place and time to execute the vision. Now, his generosity and support have made it possible for the Foundation to preserve this historic home and secure an important asset for the college—one

that will bring people together far into the future."

In 2000, the college sold the former college president's residence located in the Town of Brunswick, a gift from the estate of Margarit Amstuz. Now, the Foundation, in partnership with donors like Gordon, is proud to invest in the college's future with the creation of the new Alumni House.



Leslie King, Peter Alexander Honored with Outstanding Philanthropist Awards

The Hudson Valley Community College Foundation named Leslie King and Peter Alexander the 2020 and 2021 recipients of its Outstanding Philanthropist Award, respectively. Both received their awards during the college's annual Leadership Donor Reception on Sept. 22, 2021 at the Franklin Plaza in Troy.

The Outstanding Philanthropist Award is presented annually to an individual, couple or family foundation that has shown exemplary leadership through charitable giving to Hudson Valley. Recipients promote the mission, vision and values of a community college education

by facilitating access, opportunity and student success through philanthropy.

The pandemic precluded the college from being able to hold a reception in 2020, so both recipients were honored at the 2021 event.

A lifelong resident of Troy, Leslie King has spent her adult life volunteering for organizations within her community. Her philanthropy has primarily been focused on enriching educational institutions and supporting local schools that her children attended. One of Leslie's major contributions to Hudson Valley Community College was establishing the Kevin E. King Memorial Scholarship more than 20 years ago, in memory of her son, who attended Hudson Valley. She has volunteered at the college for more than 20 years, and is a former member of the Foundation Board of Directors, acting as the first vice president for six years and chairing the UW Marx Golf Tournament seven times.

Peter Alexander has demonstrated his commitment to Hudson Valley for more than 60 years through numerous donations and initiatives. He graduated from the college's Heating and Air Conditioning program in 1957

and found great success throughout his career in the home air conditioning market, retiring from Goodman Manufacturing in Texas in 2016. Always eager to help the Hudson Valley students who came after him, Peter has given generously to the college for decades. He established and endowed the Peter Alexander '57 Applied Technology Scholarship, and has supported students through donations to the Annual Fund and several other initiatives, including contributions to help make the Center for Advanced Manufacturing Skills a reality.

"The Hudson Valley Community College Foundation is thrilled to honor both Leslie King and Peter Alexander with the Outstanding Philanthropist Award for the support and generosity they both have demonstrated throughout the years," said Foundation Executive Director Regina LaGatta '73. "They have each provided so much to our college and our students, and we are so grateful for their contributions. It is our pleasure to recognize their efforts with this award."



ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund plays a pivotal role in the Foundation's efforts to support the college. Through donations to the Annual Fund, we are able to support:

- Student Success
- Diversity Efforts
- Academic Programing
- Faculty and Staff Development
- Community Engagement
- Campus Renovations and Enhancements
- Scholarships
- Student Emergency Fund
- Student Honors Program
- Second Chance Scholarships
- International Initiatives
- Enrollment Initiatives

Our giving priorities for 2022-2023 include:

- Advanced Manufacturing Technology
- Day Care Student Support Fund

- PTK Student Membership Support Fund
- Campus Food Pantry
- Automotive Department
- Digital Media and Fine Arts Department
- COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund
- Pride of Our Nation Exhibit

WAYS TO GIVE

ONE-TIME GIFT: Your participation matters. Every gift, no matter its size, makes a difference in our students' lives.

RECURRING GIFT: Show your ongoing commitment to the college with a recurring gift, which will allow you to continue to support Hudson Valley automatically with gifts that add up over time.

PLANNED GIFT: A planned gift is an opportunity to leave a legacy with a charitable contribution to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation. Your gift will create a

lasting effect, enabling the college to sustain educational excellence well into the future.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Aside from financial gifts, there are other ways you can show your support for the college:

- Refer a high school student to the college
- Help students and alumni with career networking
- Offer student internship opportunities
- Host an alumni gathering
- Update your contact information

If you are interested in more information about these opportunities, contact foundation@hvcc.edu or (518) 629-8012.

President Ramsammy Elected to World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics Board of Directors

In June, Hudson Valley Community College President Roger Ramsammy was elected to the Board of Directors of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP). Formally established in 2002, the WFCP offers members "a forum to exchange best practices and promote professional and technical education and training across the globe," with a vision of becoming "the principal international network for colleges, institutes and polytechnics."

President Ramsammy is currently the only U.S. college president on the board, and Hudson Valley Community College is one of the only U.S. members of the WFCP's Global Member Network, which includes 22 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Ghana, India, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Spain,

United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe. During the summer of 2022, President Ramsammy delivered a keynote address at the WFCP's World Congress, held in Spain.

"It is a great honor to have been selected to serve on the board of directors of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics," said President Ramsammy. "WFCP plays a vital role in facilitating cross-border collaborations and providing opportunities for educators from across the globe to learn from one another. I am honored to become a part of that conversation on behalf of Hudson Valley Community College, and I look forward to both increasing opportunities for partnership with other WFCP member nations and helping to inspire other U.S. colleges and universities to join the organization."



Those who are interested in learning more about becoming members of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics may contact President Ramsammy at wfcpc@hvcc.edu.

What's Next: New Applied Technology Education Center Planned for Hudson Valley

Our region, state and nation are experiencing an urgent need for skilled technicians in applied technologies and skilled trades. As Baby Boomers retire, thousands of these jobs are opening—but there are not enough trained workers to replace them.

To help bridge the gap, Hudson Valley Community College plans to build a brand new \$75 million workforce training facility known as the Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC).

Currently, the college houses several programs that prepare graduates for in-demand careers as semiconductor manufacturing and mechatronics technicians, welders and welding fabricators, electricians (commercial and residential), heating, ventilation and cooling/refrigeration (HVAC-R) technicians, automotive technicians, artificial intelligence experts and hacking and cybersecurity specialists to name just a few.

A new facility, filled with modern equipment, the newest machine tools and the latest technology, is absolutely necessary to allow Hudson Valley to meet industry standards, increase enrollment, launch new programs and train the next generation of workers who will power these essential industries.

Once complete, ATEC will allow Hudson Valley to:

- Increase the number of students enrolled in skilled trade and technology programs by 200 percent.

- Train upward of 5,000 new skilled technicians over the next decade, to support our workforce in the areas they are needed most.
- Expand current programs and establish new ones that focus on areas of key demand and on emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics, Heavy Equipment, and Plumbing and Pipefitting Technology.
- Expand fast-track workforce training courses for those already employed in key industries by offering advanced, industry-validated certifications and skill- and competency-based non-credit workforce training programs and bootcamps.
- Become a magnet for manufacturers and other technical companies around the Northeast seeking a highly skilled workforce and use of industry resources.
- Fill the skilled trades industry's skills gap,

meet workforce demand, and help grow the region's economy.

- Provide the model for other centers for applied technologies at SUNY institutions statewide.

To make ATEC a reality, public sector and private industry investment is crucial. In early 2022, the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation established a capital campaign and set out to raise funds for construction and equipment.

To contribute to the ATEC Capital Campaign, please contact the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation at (518) 629-8012 or foundation@hvcc.edu.

