

VALLEY VIEW

THE HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE

President Roger A. Ramsammy:
College's New Leader Envisions an Innovative Future

SUMMER '18

Professors
Rogan, Slattery
Reflect on 50
Years

Building a K-12
Pipeline

Reasons to Give:
Two Stories of
Philanthropy

VALLEY VIEW

Valley View is published by
Hudson Valley Community College

Summer 2018

Roger A. Ramsammy, Ph.D.
President

Dennis Kennedy '95
Executive Director of Communications and Marketing

Eric Bryant
Teresa Farrell
Staff Writers

Vincent Giordano
Photographer

Please send your comments and feedback via e-mail
to editor@hvcc.edu or via mail to:

Editor, *Valley View*
Hudson Valley Community College
GUN 267, 80 Vandenburg Ave.
Troy, NY 12180

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

Regina LaGatta '73
Executive Director, Hudson Valley
Community College Foundation

One *Valley View* Per Address
In order to conserve paper and postage expense,
only one *Valley View* is mailed to each address in
the college's database of more than 75,000 alumni,
friends and donors. Additional copies are available
by contacting Debby Gardner (d.gardner@hvcc.edu)
or (518) 629-8071 in the Office of Communications
and Marketing.

This and past issues of *Valley View* may be viewed at
www.hvcc.edu/alumni/valleyview.



Be bold. Be a Viking.

(518) 629-4822 // www.hvcc.edu



IN THIS ISSUE



1

CAMS BUILDING
MOVES AHEAD



7

FACULTY NEWS 2

PRESIDENT MATONAK'S
LEGACY AT HUDSON VALLEY

PRESIDENT RAMSAMMY
ARRIVES ON CAMPUS



8

13 ENTREPRENEUR ALUMNUS WINS RPI
BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

ATHLETICS RECAP
2017-2018



16

20 ALUMNUS CLIFF PEREZ ADVOCATES
FOR AN ACCESSIBLE SOCIETY

College Launches Manufacturing Boot Camp



Last fall, Hudson Valley launched its new Manufacturing Technology Pathways training program. This short-term, stackable credential training program involves online non-credit coursework and an in-person component: an 80-hour manufacturing boot camp that combines classroom lectures with hands-on lab experiences. Those who complete the program receive a local credential and are prepared to go immediately into entry level jobs in basic assembly and warehousing.

Twenty-three students completed the first two boot camps, held in January and May, and are now primed with the skills that Capital Region manufacturers have identified as crucial to entry-level employment.

The project was created through a SUNY workforce development grant, with additional support from the New York State Workforce Development Institute, Center for Economic Growth (CEG) and local manufacturing employers. Now, the program has seen another boost. The KeyBank Foundation recently donated \$250,000 to CEG, which will split the grant between Hudson Valley's Manufacturing Technology Pathways program and a new Certified Production Technician program at Schenectady County Community College.

The \$125,000 awarded to Hudson Valley will support four to five additional boot camps through mid-2020, serving 100 students. Under the parameters of the grant, the goal is to have 25 percent of program participants from low- to moderate-income households. The first boot camp funded under the grant starts in August 2018.

The Capital Region and Mohawk Valley are the only New York State regions that have seen their manufacturing sectors grow over the past five years. However, the Capital Region's 10 percent growth rate is more than four times greater than the Mohawk Valley's, according to New York State Department of Labor statistics. During that period, the eight-county Capital Region added 3,080 manufacturing jobs. While large manufacturers such as GLOBALFOUNDRIES and Regeneron drove much of that growth, smaller operations also contributed to it. In fact, nearly nine in 10 manufacturers in the region have less than 50 employees.

The Pathways program was modeled after Massachusetts' successful Manufacturing Advancement Center Workforce Innovation Collaborative (MACWIC). Its development was a key recommendation in a 2017 study on the skills gap in the region's manufacturing sector conducted by CEG for the Capital Region Workforce Development Boards supporting Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Columbia, Greene, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.

CAMS Takes Shape



The college held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Gene F. Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing Skills (CAMS), April 11. When completed in 2019, CAMS will allow the college to double enrollment in the Advanced Manufacturing Technology degree program. The \$14.5 million, 37,000-square-foot facility will train students on the latest machine tools, equipment, tooling and software for employment with manufacturers around the Northeast.

NEWS

New Department Chairs for Building Systems Technology, Nursing

Hudson Valley announced new leadership in two academic departments during the Fall 2017 term.

Martha "Marty" Desmond now leads the Nursing Department after serving as interim department chair and as a faculty member since 2008.

Desmond, who has 37 years of experience as a registered nurse, earned a B.S. in nursing from Molloy College, and a M.S. in nursing as well as a post-master certificate as a clinical nurse specialist and acute care nurse practitioner from Sage Graduate School. She recently completed her doctoral degree in nursing science from Sage.

In 2015, she earned a Merit Award for her dedication and commitment to the Nursing curriculum with a focus on simulation and critical thinking.

The Nursing Department also oversees the Surgical Technology degree and certificate programs.

Brittany Kitterman has been named the new department chairperson for the Building Systems Technology Department.

She will oversee six degree and certificate programs in the department - Clean Energy Management, Electrical Construction and Maintenance, Heating/Air Conditioning/Refrigeration Technical Services, Mechatronics, Overhead Electric Line Worker and Photovoltaic Installation.

A Hudson Valley alumna, she graduated from the Electrical Construction and Maintenance program in 2009. She went on to get her bachelor's degree in technical education from SUNY Oswego in 2011, followed by a master's in technology education from Ball State University in Indiana. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in educational policy and leadership from the University at Albany.

"I'm really excited to be back here," she said. "Out of all the schools I've attended, public and private, Hudson Valley was the best. The faculty were so involved and helpful."



Kitterman



Desmond



Retirees

The following faculty members announced their retirements during the past academic year.

- > **Marian Barasch**, Professor, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- > **Barbara Dagastine**, Professor, Nursing
- > **William Darling**, Professor, Civil Engineering, Construction, Industrial and Mechanical Technologies
- > **Christopher Dennis**, Professor, Civil, Construction, Industrial and Mechanical Technologies
- > **Donald C. Frament**, Associate Professor, Learning Assistance Center
- > **Ruth Major**, Assistant Professor, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- > **Robert Matthews**, Professor/Faculty Librarian, Marvin Library
- > **Karen Nash**, Professor, Human Services and Chemical Dependency Counseling
- > **Jill Palmer**, Associate Professor, Civil, Construction, Industrial and Mechanical Technologies
- > **Diana Pane**, Associate Professor, Teacher Preparation
- > **Thomas Rogan**, Professor, Health, Physical Education and Exercise Studies
- > **Judith Stamp**, Professor, Nursing



Board of Trustees Chairman Neil Kelleher at the 2018 Student Honors Convocation.

Kelleher, Fagan Reappointed to Board of Trustees; Grant Begins Term

Neil J. Kelleher '91, and William F. Fagan '73, were both recently re-appointed to the college's Board of Trustees; and a new member, Thomas P. Grant of East Greenbush, was appointed this summer.

This will be Kelleher's second term in office. He currently serves as the chairman of the board, a post he was elected to in 2015 following two years of service as vice chair.



Fagan

Kelleher retired from Hudson Valley in 2010 after 23 years as a physical plant supervisor and special assistant to the president for capital projects. Kelleher received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2000 for his many civic and charitable accomplishments.

"It's an honor to continue to serve on the college's Board of Trustees, and I'm thankful to the Rensselaer County Legislature for the opportunity," Kelleher said. "As a graduate of the college and lifelong resident of our region, I have a first-hand understanding of the many benefits Hudson Valley provides to its students and the greater community as well. I know I am but one success story among thousands, and I'm glad to be able to give back to this incredible institution."

Fagan, former college Foundation Board Director from 1997-2007, and a member of the college's Faculty Student Association Board of Directors since 2010, has been on the Board of Trustees since 2009. He owns Wm. J. Fagan and Sons, Inc., which was founded by his grandfather more than 100 years ago.



Grant

Grant is a first-term member of the Rensselaer County Legislature, and takes the trustee seat vacated by the Honorable Conrad H. Lang, Jr., a retired Rensselaer County Surrogate Court Judge who stepped down in June. During his two terms of service, Judge Lang served as vice chairman and chairman.

Since 2007, Grant has served as a certified mediator with Mediation Matters, a not-for-profit organization that provides conflict resolution training and services in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.

NEWS

CAD Faculty Member Has Designs on World Martial Arts Title

Four years ago, faculty member Peter Fil had never heard of the Korean martial art Haidong Gumdo. Last summer, he became an international gold medalist in the sport.

Haidong Gumdo, or the Way of the Sword, is a Korean martial art that includes sparring, forms and paper/straw/bamboo cutting. Although officially established just 40 years ago, the sport harkens back to two-handed sword techniques Korean warriors used in battle for centuries, fending off invasions from China and Japan.

Fil, who teaches computer aided design (CAD) courses in the college's School of Engineering and Industrial Technologies, first discovered the sword-based art when his 10-year-old son started practicing Tae Kwon Do at Master Yang's Martial Arts Center in Latham three years ago. Dropping his child off for a lesson, he noticed several students practicing routines called "gumbub" with wooden swords. His curiosity was piqued.

"I knew I needed to get up off my butt and do something, some kind of new exercise, and this looked interesting," he said. "From the beginning, I liked everything about it. It was active but low impact. I really wasn't too interested in getting punched or kicked like in Tae Kwon Do. This brings together meditation and breathing techniques, and it's all aimed at creating a better body and better focus."

Last summer, the head of the Latham martial arts school announced that they were planning to send a team to the international Mulimpia in South Korea, a biennial Olympic-style event for martial arts, where competitors vie against those at the same belt level. Fil, a blue belt whose been training for three years, and his son, a Tae Kwon Do brown belt, were in, and the family prepped for an eight-day trip halfway around the world.



The competition was held in PyeongChang, the site of the 2018 Winter Olympics, but the family also took the time to visit the Korean national Tae Kwon Do training center, along with South Korea's capital, Seoul.

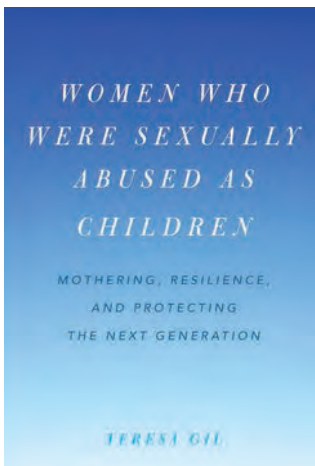
Fil, who finished first in Haidong Gumdo forms and fourth in paper cutting, said the final day of competition was a little nerve-wracking, but the focus he's learned over the past three years of training helped.

"One of the best aspects of attending something like this is finding other people from around the world who are just as interested and excited about the sport. It's nice to build an international friendship with people from places like Switzerland and Korea," he said.

With both his sons involved in Tae Kwon Do and his wife pursuing Alpha Krav Maga, a self-defense technique created by the Israeli Army, the Fils are now a familiar presence at the martial arts center. They're already making plans to attend the 2018 Pan-American Mulimpia, with the possibility of a return trip to Korea the following year.

"This has turned into something that's consumed a lot of my life outside of work," he said. "It's been a great experience for the whole family, and it certainly keeps us busy."

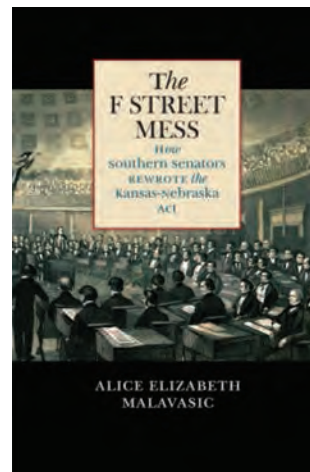
Two Faculty Members Publish Books



Psychology Professor Teresa Gil, Ph.D. used a sabbatical leave in spring 2017 to research and write "Women Who Were Sexually Abused as Children: Mothering, Resilience and Protecting the Next Generation," which was published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers in July.

The book draws on Professor Gil's 30 years as a psychotherapist working with women, children and families recovering from abuse and trauma. It highlights the resilient capacities of mothers who have experienced child sexual abuse, and allows them to tell their stories of pain and triumph in their own voices.

"This book represents my commitment to make a contribution and facilitate change for this poorly understood group," she said. "I hope to cast a light on the struggles and therapeutic needs for mothers who have survived childhood abuse and for the professionals who support them."



Associate Professor Alice Malavasic, Ph.D., who teaches American History, recently saw University of North Carolina Press publish "The F Street Mess: How Southern Senators Re-wrote the Kansas Nebraska Act." The book is an offshoot of Malavasic's doctoral dissertation and is part of UNC Press' Civil War series.

A political historian with an emphasis on Southern history, Professor Malavasic argues that southern politicians in the 1850s held an inordinate amount of power in the pre-Civil War Congress

and, in particular, four senators, collectively known as the "F Street Mess," were able to wield enough power and influence to rewrite a key act that led to secession.

Malavasic's next book signing is October 15 at the Barnes & Noble in Colonie Center.

Clean Tech ECHS: Connecting High School Students to College and Careers

The fastest-growing careers of the 21st century will be filled by those who understand innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, and in many ways, that's the driving idea behind an eight-year old partnership between the college and students from more than 20 high schools around the region - the Clean Technology and Sustainable Industries Early College High School (ECHS).

In partnership with the Ballston Spa Central School District, the Clean Tech ECHS program, housed at the college's TEC-SMART extension center in Malta, has been enrolling students since 2011. The unique program allows students to simultaneously complete their high school requirements and earn credit toward an associate degree from Hudson Valley. Students enter the program as high school freshmen and many continue their education at the college after completing the program.

Four academic pathways are offered through ECHS – Clean Energy, Computer Information Systems, Mechatronics, and Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Innovation.

ECHS coursework is project-based, and students not only work closely with college faculty but also build mentoring relationships with those currently working in their chosen career field.

Here are three students who are currently in or recently graduated from the Clean Tech ECHS and a little information on where they are headed.

Clean Tech Facts

- The program is designated as a New York State P-Tech partnership, which is aimed at providing targeted pathways to STEM careers. College tuition is free for all students.
- There have been 269 graduates from the Clean Tech ECHS. About 40 percent continue their higher education at Hudson Valley.
- Clean Tech ECHS is administered through the Ballston Spa Central School District, which partnered with the college to develop the program.



Hudson

Kyle Hudson knew from the start that he was interested in the business side of technology.

"I would always focus on the business and investor relations side of research during our group projects. I was a part of a team that worked on multiple projects, and where another team member would specialize in the technology aspect of our research, and another focused on societal impacts, I would work on the economics and business model," he said.

After ECHS, Kyle enrolled at Hudson Valley and quickly became one of the most active students on campus – Student Senate secretary, Faculty Student Association board member, president of the Investment Club, and Foundation student board representative, to name just a few of his responsibilities.

With his associate degree in hand, this fall he will continue his studies at CUNY College of Staten Island, with a dual major in finance and economics.



Jarosz

Jamison Jarosz is entering his second year at Hudson Valley after graduating from ECHS in the Mechatronics pathway.

"I chose to pursue an engineering science degree at Hudson Valley. I knew that the college was good academically, but I never fully realized the caliber of education that Hudson Valley provides until I got into the first semester. Now I realize why schools like RPI and Clarkson jump at the chance to transfer graduates into their programs," he said.

Elected as Student Senate president this spring, Jamison is working to implement initiatives which will better student life on campus. He has big plans for after graduation, too.

"I am planning on transferring to a four-year institution to pursue a mechanical engineering degree and MBA. After I graduate with my degrees, I am planning on joining the US Army."



Rainville

"I began the ECHS program because I was really interested in technology," Julia Rainville said. "In middle school I took technology classes, and I always thought they were interesting. So I decided to apply and go with the Clean Energy pathway because I loved the idea of using solar, wind and geothermal. It really opened my eyes to a whole new world."

Julia is continuing her education in the Clean Energy Management degree at Hudson Valley and will finish that degree this fall. She plans to continue her studies in the renewable energy field after graduation.

"The student community at Clean Tech was amazing. You knew every classmate you had, the teachers were always available to talk or help you with an assignment. My favorite part was being able to have more freedom than you would in an actual high school classroom. It definitely got you ready for the transition to college."



Job Corps Students Travel from Hurricane-Hit Areas to Receive WDI PV Training

Hudson Valley Community College's Workforce Development Institute (WDI) has been offering entry-level career training in photovoltaic installation for more than a decade, but this past fall, they welcomed a new group of students who traveled across the country to receive the training.

WDI has had an ongoing training relationship with the Glenmont Jobs Corps, but last fall they got an urgent call for help from one of their Job Corps associates. A dozen students studying PV installation at Job Corps centers in Gainesville, Florida, and in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, were left up in the air when both centers were devastated by hurricanes.

The students needed a place to continue their studies, and the WDI/Glenmont Job Corps collaboration was the only other Advanced PV training program in the country. So, a dozen Job Corps students travelled up north to complete their training.

"We were about 60 percent into our PV training down in Florida when the hurricane hit," said Spencer Berube, who came up from the Job Corps Center in Gainesville. "They said, if you really want to do this, you can restart the program in Glenmont, so we did."

Henry Barahona and Gilbert Martinez were two students studying solar panel installation in Arecibo. Hurricane Maria's combination of wind and water devastated the island's Job Corps training site, which still remains closed.

"I feel like this is one of those fields that's going to keep moving forward, so we wanted to complete the training," said Martinez, who is originally from California.

David Gibson, who grew up in Maryland, also was studying in Florida and moved north for additional training. Like the other students, he's already completed a Job Corps program in basic electricity – enough to gain him an entry-level job in the field – but wanted to broaden his job prospects with additional training in PV installation. "In five years, I see myself completing an apprenticeship in electricity and still doing solar jobs on the side. This is an added skill to have," he said.

All 12 of the students from Florida and Puerto Rico Job Corps sites recently completed the program, taught through the college's Workforce Development Institute. They'll soon be starting internships at solar installation businesses. They'll also be applying for jobs here in the Capital Region and around the country.

"Several of them have interviews scheduled. I just found out that one of our students was offered a job down in Virginia," said Scott Stevens, the advanced training coordinator at the Glenmont Job Corps site.

The group from Puerto Rico and Florida is the second cohort of Job Corps students who have taken the WDI's PV training program. Stevens said the three and a half month course uses the college's facilities and another off-campus site as well as the Job Corps.

It's likely that Hudson Valley's WDI will see a few more groups of Job Corps students in the months and years to come. The Glenmont site is currently the only one in the country offering advanced PV training.

SUNY Chancellor's Award Recipients

The SUNY Chancellor's Award is given to faculty and staff members at SUNY's 60 campuses who have shown exemplary achievement and service to their institutions. Since its inception, more than 170 Hudson Valley Community College employees have received the award.



Pawloski

Excellence in Faculty Service

Katie M. Pawloski, Assistant Professor, Nursing

Katie's interest and expertise in patient simulation helped her to develop computer-based simulations for online courses. She is a leader in inter-professional collaboration, creating partnerships between the Nursing program and educational programs at Albany Medical College and Albany College of Pharmacy.



Podlaski

Anthony L. Podlaski, Assistant Professor, English, Foreign Languages and English as a Second Language

Tony teaches classes in composition, journalism, advanced journalism and technical writing. He serves as faculty liaison for the Center for Effective Teaching, where he plans and facilitates professional development activities. He has also served on and chaired various college committees.



Martocci

Excellence in Professional Service

DeAnne Martocci, Director, Center for Access and Assistive Technology

DeAnne oversees services for students who have physical and learning disabilities, ensuring that Hudson Valley's students with learning disabilities have access to necessary software and hardware and that those with physical disabilities have assistive equipment and access to learning spaces.



Raneri

Excellence in Teaching

Rosanne M. Raneri, Associate Professor, Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Digital Media

Rosanne teaches courses in the Theatre Arts program and advises the Theatre Club. She was recognized for nurturing and supporting students and putting on high-quality productions that all involved can be proud of.



Jackson

Excellence in Adjunct Teaching

Richard E. Jackson, Jr., Instructor, Mathematics and Engineering Science

Richard teaches four courses, a maximum adjunct teaching load, and makes himself available to students before and after class time each day. Prior to working at Hudson Valley, Jackson taught middle and high school math, served as New York State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and was the first African-American city mayor in New York State history, elected in 1984.



Larkin

Excellence in Classified Service

Debra A. Larkin, Principal Account Clerk, Community and Professional Education

Deb's duties include processing registrations for the 660 classes that are run by her office each year, and working with both students and teachers. She was previously recognized for her service and leadership at Hudson Valley with the Meritorious Service Award in 2014.

President Matonak's Legacy at Hudson Valley

The college's sixth president, Drew Matonak, retired in 2018 after 13 years of service to the college. During his tenure, the college experienced significant growth and a host of accomplishments.



2004
> Drew Matonak chosen for Hudson Valley Community College Presidency

2007
>

Administration Building opens

2009
>

College Receives \$3.4 million grant from the US Department of Labor for Biotech and Biomufacturing Training

President Obama visits college

Five-story parking garage opens



2011
>

Clean Tech Early College High School Partnership is established with Ballston Spa Central School District

College named among Top 10% of Nation's Community Colleges by Aspen Institute

College hits enrollment record of 14,011

2014
>

Educational Opportunity Center moves to new facility on River Street in Troy

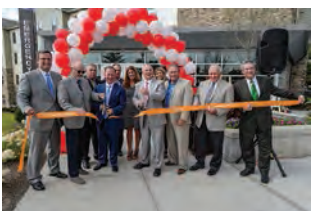
College named part of two NYS Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) grants to prepare 6,000+ students for higher education



2017
>

Drew honored with University at Albany Foundation's Citizen Laureate Award

United Group opens College Suites at Hudson Valley



2005 >

Drew's Installation Ceremony



2008 >

Drew announces the \$10 million Promise of Our Region: The Campaign for the Community, the college's first major gifts campaign

2010 >

TEC-SMART officially opens



College receives \$3.5 million grant from the US Department of Energy for photovoltaic training across the Northeast

2012 >

College announces CDTA Universal Ridership program



2013 >

Drew elected president of the New York Community College Association of Presidents

Largest graduating class in history of the college; 2,333 graduate

\$44 million Science Center opens



2016 >

Drew announces retirement

College awarded 10-year reaccreditation by Middle States Commission on Higher Education

\$4.5 million Outdoor Athletic Complex opens

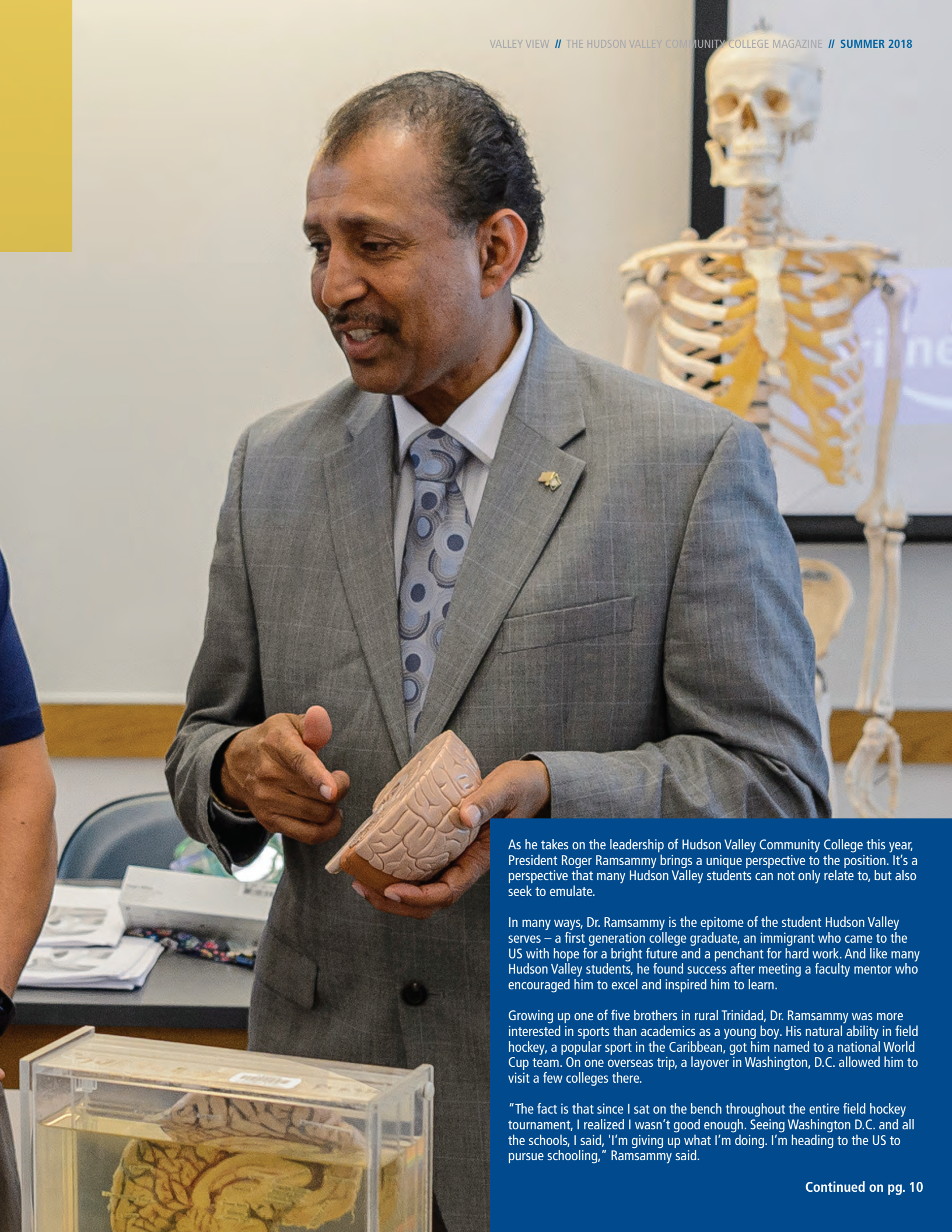


2018 >

Drew breaks ground on Gene F. Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing Skills

President Ramsammy: Students Come First





As he takes on the leadership of Hudson Valley Community College this year, President Roger Ramsammy brings a unique perspective to the position. It's a perspective that many Hudson Valley students can not only relate to, but also seek to emulate.

In many ways, Dr. Ramsammy is the epitome of the student Hudson Valley serves – a first generation college graduate, an immigrant who came to the US with hope for a bright future and a penchant for hard work. And like many Hudson Valley students, he found success after meeting a faculty mentor who encouraged him to excel and inspired him to learn.

Growing up one of five brothers in rural Trinidad, Dr. Ramsammy was more interested in sports than academics as a young boy. His natural ability in field hockey, a popular sport in the Caribbean, got him named to a national World Cup team. On one overseas trip, a layover in Washington, D.C. allowed him to visit a few colleges there.

"The fact is that since I sat on the bench throughout the entire field hockey tournament, I realized I wasn't good enough. Seeing Washington D.C. and all the schools, I said, 'I'm giving up what I'm doing. I'm heading to the US to pursue schooling,'" Ramsammy said.

Roger A. Ramsammy, Ph.D.

Education:

- University of the District of Columbia - B.S. Biology
- Howard University – M.S. Genetics; Ph.D. Molecular Biology
- Georgetown University – Post-Doctoral Studies

Career Overview:

- Faculty Member, Department Chair, Dean - Palm Beach Community College (Florida State Professor of the Year, 2003)
- Provost/Chief Academic Officer - Northern Virginia Community College
- President, Miami Dade College - West Campus

Big Ideas:

- Connecting and Teaching with Innovation and Technology
- Fostering the Power of Mentorship and Community
- Driving Workforce Partnerships and Serving our Region
- Building a Strong K-12 Pipeline to Higher Education and Careers
- Developing Strategies to Help Underserved Students Succeed

Leaving his family behind, he arrived alone, with a visa, a suitcase, his high school transcript and little else. "I went up to the counter at Howard University, and I showed the lady my transcript, and she said, 'Son, it takes years. People who apply to come here have to provide so many different things before they get accepted. How can you think you can show up and just get accepted?'"

He may have been naïve, but he wasn't giving up or heading back to Trinidad. Ramsammy found his place at the University of the District of Columbia, a four-year school that accepted him.

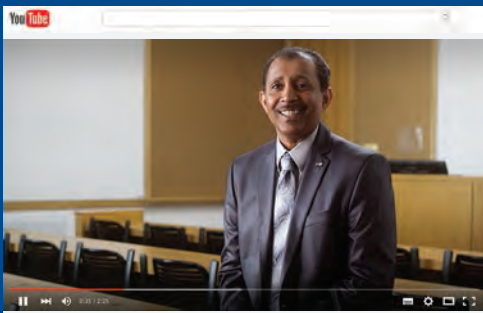
"At the time, I couldn't afford anything but the first set of tuition. So, my sleeping quarters were in very strange places" he said. "One of the professors, Dr. Joan William Thomas, took a liking for me, but you couldn't tell from the very first meeting, because it was her foot kicking me where I was sleeping. She said, 'Get up, young man. You see me in my lab.' I thought I was in big trouble. When I went to her lab, she handed me a lab coat and she said to me, 'You'll be working with me in my laboratory from this point on.'"

Dr. Ramsammy had found his first academic mentor, and he responded in kind. Grades that were once B's and C's soon became B's and A's. Soon, straight A's. In his third year at UDC, he was awarded a scholarship from the National Institutes of Health. Upon graduation with a degree in Biology, he finally reached his dream of being accepted to Howard University to pursue a master's in Genetics and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology.

At Howard, Dr. Ramsammy had a clear focus on a career that combined research and perhaps a sideline of teaching. He did post-doctoral work at Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center and was accepted into a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. As he launched a high impact career as a cancer geneticist, his poor upbringing back in Trinidad must have seemed a long way off. But it wasn't.

Still teaching as an adjunct back at UDC, he noticed that many at-risk and minority students gravitated to his classes. He was, perhaps, becoming the mentor that others had been to him, and the understanding that he could change young people's futures, one class at a time, took hold. Dr. Ramsammy discovered not only a strong desire, but an uncanny affinity to break through to his students.

"I didn't teach from a book, I taught from what I understood in my head, just like I learned from Dr. Winston Anderson at Howard University. I focused on how to deliver information in a way that was pertinent to the success of my students," he said. "I began to understand that I was going to take up a journey where I would make a difference, and that means going towards a community college and devoting my life to teaching."



Learn more about President Ramsammy by visiting www.hvcc.edu/about to hear his story.





Dr. Ramsammy's next stop was at Palm Beach State College, where he spent 18 years earning accolades for his pioneering teaching methods and the integration of technology into instruction. Reaching the role of dean of Academic Affairs, he moved on to the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) system, where he spent four years as a provost and chief academic officer at NOVA's Manassas campus. In 2016, he was appointed president at a campus of one of the largest two-year institutions of higher education in the country – Miami Dade College.

During his time at each institution, he helped develop and lead innovative programs that fostered student success – building community partnerships, collaborating with regional school districts and other colleges, even working on national initiatives that brought attention to the need for deeper STEM education, especially among underserved populations.

At a White House STEM education meeting he attended on behalf of NOVA, he heard a talk from then-SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, and he was impressed at what was going on in New York's public higher education system. He made a mental note to look further into any potential openings at SUNY schools.

"I was looking for that opportunity, and Hudson Valley was there. There were lots of other colleges that were looking for presidents, but I heard everything that I needed to hear. First, most of the programs at Hudson Valley were very highly rated. That meant the college had dynamic faculty members, people who cared – just like I did – about students."

Dr. Ramsammy talks often about "holding students' hands," getting them "over the goal line" and on to the next chapter in their lives, whether that means a career or transfer to a four-year college. He understands that it's a team effort that drives student retention, and that Hudson Valley needs to foster a campus culture that makes student success its focal point.

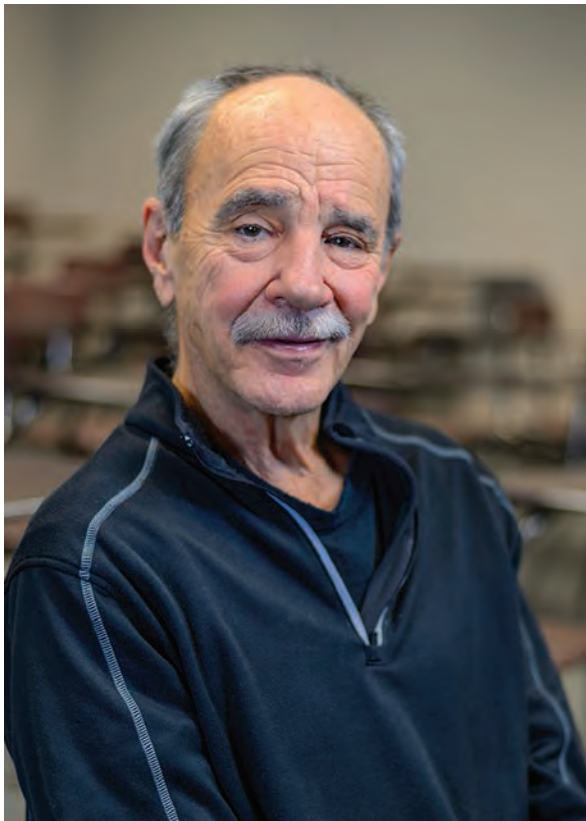
"Are we preparing our campus to meet what's going to happen in 20 years? Are we going to wait 20 years from now and then start making the transition? Are we going to teach like we used to teach 20 years ago in a classroom to students who were born with cell phones in their hands? Are we going to reach them? Probably not – we may lose these students. The idea is how do we transition, how do we meet students where they are today, so that we can keep them on the campus and get them to the next point?"

Dr. Ramsammy's vision for Hudson Valley is squarely aimed at helping students find a way to reach their academic goals, with an understanding that many of our students need a helping hand or come from challenging circumstances. It's a situation he understands well, because his life story is one of seeking out challenges and rising to meet them.



Facing page: Dr. Ramsammy visits University at Albany President Havidán Rodríguez. Above: from left, Dr. Ramsammy, Board of Trustees Chairman Neil Kelleher and Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin; with Hudson Valley Community College Foundation Executive Director Regina LaGatta at the monthly board meeting of the United Way of the Capital Region; with Simmons Machine Tool Corp. President Dave Davis; visiting with Foundation and college board members at a Valley Cats game.

ENGLISH PROFESSOR JAMES SLATTERY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF TEACHING AT HUDSON VALLEY



This year, one Hudson Valley professor marked a milestone that no faculty member before him can claim: English professor James Slattery has taught at Hudson Valley for 50 years.

His accomplishment was recognized at the college's annual Meritorious Service Awards on Dec. 8, where he became the first college employee to receive a 50-year pin. When he took to the stage to accept that pin, his one simple remark said it all: "Thank you. I truly love Hudson Valley."

Like many great love stories, this one began almost by accident. When Professor Slattery joined the faculty in 1967, he was just out of college and teaching high school in Schoharie. While he was working on his master's degree, a friend suggested he try teaching college. He was skeptical, unsure of whether he wanted or was suited to the task. But ultimately, he decided to give Hudson Valley a shot—and the rest is history.

Professor Slattery has been teaching English classes at the college ever since. Technically, he retired from his full-time teaching position in December of 2000, but it was hardly a break—he returned as a part-time faculty member in January 2001. He currently teaches

public speaking, creative writing, and short story classes, and has no plans to slow down anytime soon. After all this time, a Hudson Valley classroom is still his favorite place to be.

"Teaching is, for me, a gift," he explains. "There's nothing more rewarding to me than influencing students' lives."

Professor Slattery says he's been lucky to be able to hear generations of those students' stories in his classroom. "I'm fortunate to be able to have the interaction with students as individual human beings, not just people who happen to be sitting in front of me at desks," he explains.

Some have hidden talents that he thrives on helping bring to light. Others tell heartfelt stories in class that they might not share anywhere else, providing a rare glimpse into their inner worlds. But while the details may differ, and the times have changed, he says that at the heart of it, the students and their stories remain mostly the same.

"In the sixties and seventies, we had anti-war protests, the civil rights movement, all the culture changes - the Vietnam veterans coming home, and the impact that had. And I heard all those stories in class. And now, I have veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we're seeing protests and talking about equal rights," he says. "The times change - the clothes change, the trends and styles change, but at heart, a lot of it is the same. They're the stories of America. They're the stories of Hudson Valley. They're the stories of students who, whether they had some traumatic event happen or if they're just "normal"— they come here and they get to start a new life."

Another thing that hasn't changed? The spirit of Hudson Valley—and what it's meant to him to be a part of the family here for so

"Teaching is, for me, a gift; there's nothing more rewarding to me than influencing students' lives."



Professor James Slattery teaches his English students about the art of the short story.

long. He says that he met some of his best friends and the most important people in his life here. Even his wife, Pam, is a fellow faculty member, in the college's Nursing department.

"This place has kept me real," he confides. "That's one reason I love it so much. Life is not about the view from some ivory tower, and because I was here, I never lost touch. And the other thing I love about Hudson Valley is that I met so many people who became so important to me here. From students to co-workers to custodians, Hudson Valley is a family, and like family, they take care of you."

Professor Slattery's educational philosophy is simple—and it might be more of a life philosophy, which is fitting for a person for whom teaching and life are so closely intertwined. "I believe in education," he says. "By that I mean, I believe that your education will continue whether you like it or not, because life is full of constant change. The question is, how do I become more? You need to be able to open your mind to other parts of life, and if it comes to you that there's something you want to do, and it's logical, possible, and worthwhile, then just do it."

So what's next? Sure, he's got a few vacations he'd like to take, but nothing that would cause him to stop teaching entirely, a scenario that is difficult for him to imagine.

"I'll keep doing this until I can't anymore," he says.

What's keeping him interested in this career, long past the point that many people retire? For one, it's the students, who he says he's eternally grateful to. "Those students are the reason we're here," he points out. "Without them, none of us would have a reason to keep doing this."

But there's a more philosophical reason, too. He refers to a question posed by his favorite author, Leo Tolstoy, in his novella "The Death of Ivan Ilych"—one of the first pieces Professor Slattery taught to his early English classes at the college. "In the book, the question you get to is, 'What gives your life meaning?' For me, that's teaching here. I get to have a positive effect on other people every single day. That's the key to meaning in my life."



Entrepreneurship Graduate Wins RPI Business Model Competition



Chedrawee

Tony Chedrawee comes from a family of internationally-based entrepreneurs. His father runs a mozzarella cheese factory for the growing number of pizza shops in Accra, Ghana - so it's not surprising that he has more than a little innovative spirit.

A 2015 graduate of the college's Entrepreneurship program, Tony is continuing his business education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He recently won the prestigious RPI Business Model Competition for a product he developed called AnyWeight, a modular weight system.

Tony came up with a seed of the idea while a student

here at Hudson Valley, and by the time he was at RPI, the idea had begun to blossom into a business plan.

AnyWeight deals with the inconvenience of using big, bulky metal plates for exercise. They have to be re-racked on barbells, and then there's the problem of them falling on your toes. What if someone could design a system where a single weight could take on a range of resistance?

The business model pitch worked, he said, in part, because of the presentation skills he learned as an Entrepreneurship student at Hudson Valley.

"I pitched the business model we had and the market we were aiming at – gyms, hotels. There were a lot of great ideas in the competition but I noticed that a lot of the people that presented had only the technical engineering background and not the entrepreneurial education. That's one thing that may have given me the advantage," he said.

The competition comes with a small amount of prize money that Tony can reinvest in developing the idea, as well as some free legal services that he's utilizing to do patent searches.

"I think it was really good that I started at Hudson Valley because it prepared me not just academically, but mentally, in a sense," he said. "One of the major things I took away from the program here is the entrepreneurial mindset."

Tony and several other RPI students also finished second in another recent business competition – the Startup RPI competition, sponsored by Deloitte. In that competition, he and a friend presented the concept of a campus-wide energy micro-grid system. Not only would RPI be more energy independent but, he argued in the presentation, building an academic program based on micro-grid energy would place the college at the forefront of designing that technology.

"We got a lot of validation and support from the faculty and administration after the presentation, and we are working on building a more detailed proposal and seeking some grants. Part of what I learned between RPI and here was learning how to break down concepts and present them in a clear and structured way. That's a lot of what we did at Hudson Valley. All of those classes I took here prepared me for presentations like this."

CELEBRATED COACH AND PROFESSOR TOM ROGAN RETIRING, BUT NOT SLOWING DOWN



When Tom Rogan started working in Hudson Valley's Exercise Science and Physical Education Department in 1968, the coffee in the faculty lounge only cost five cents per mug. There were only a couple thousand students enrolled, and a couple hundred professors. And most of the campus, as it stands today, hadn't even been built yet.

"I remember watching the steel go up when they were building McDonough," he recalls. "Dr. Bulmer and I used to take walks around campus and watch the construction after I got done coaching soccer practice for the night."

When Tom joined the Hudson Valley staff, he had no idea that this place would become his home for the next half century. Fresh out of graduate school at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, with a master's degree in physical education and psychology, Tom took a chance on Hudson Valley because of the impressive variety and quality of the college's sports programs. Fifty years later, he's embarking on another new journey: retirement. But, as he's quick to point out, the college will always hold a special place in his heart.

"This institution has made it possible to do what I love, things that put a smile on my face," he says. "The experiences I've had here are second to none, and there are so many people to thank for that. They gave me the opportunity to have this career that I have loved. It's been great."

It's the people, he explains, that make this place so special. From fellow faculty, staff, and administrators, to the thousands of students he taught and coached, each person he forged a relationship with here has left their mark on his life.

And he has certainly left his impression on them, as well. Tom has taught generations of students everything from sports classes to the importance of diet and exercise to teaching methods. He's coached the college's soccer and track and field teams, leading them to victory, over and over again, and created a legendary name for himself amongst local sports fans. For his students and his teams, his dedication is palpable; he takes them and the work they do extremely seriously, and places a premium on learning the topics discussed in class, but also intangibles like discipline, respect, accountability, perseverance, and the value of showing up.

"I'm old school," he says, laughing. "I always joke with my students: I have a no-cut policy. I expect you to be here every day. I'll be here every day. If you get here and I'm not here, wait, because I will be coming. Or say a prayer, because I'm dead." He laughs. "I joke with them, but I haven't missed a day of work since I started teaching here. Back in the '70's, I had a hang gliding accident and broke both my arms on a Sunday afternoon, and Monday I was at work. I love to be here."

The relationships he's formed with students over the years are a testament that they love having him here, too. For him, it's rewarding to watch his students graduate and start their careers.

"We can't go anyplace that I don't run into students," he says. "I've been fortunate enough to see a lot of these young men and women graduate and get into the field and do really well for themselves. They've become excellent teachers and coaches, they've won awards, and they do a great service for the community."

He's attended their weddings, sometimes for students who met in his classes, relationships that blossomed before his eyes. He's even attended some of his students' retirement parties, years before his own decision to retire. "I'd say I'm up to maybe 100 students now that I taught who have retired," he says.

"The experiences I've had here are second to none, and there are so many people to thank for that. They gave me the opportunity to have this career that I have loved. It's been great."



Coach Tom Rogan and the 1971 Men's Soccer team.

But many of them are still working; in fact, some of the faculty and coaches that work alongside him at the college today are his former students or members of the teams he coached.

For Tom, the faces of the students may change, but the philosophy of what he wants to impart to them remains the same. He simply wants his students to prioritize health and wellness—physically and mentally—and to go out and teach others to do the same. For him, the philosophy has two parts.

“We have to educate people and prepare them for the next 60 years of their lives, so they can be physically active and physically intelligent. I don’t care if you do golfing, tennis, skiing, swimming, biking, hiking, walking, dancing, curling, or whatever kind of fitness. Just be physically active,” he explains. “And the social aspect is important, too. These activities we do are not just physical, it’s not just about sweating. These are social things, too, and that’s the beauty of it.”

For someone as active as Tom, retirement certainly doesn’t mean slowing down, physically or socially. “I told my wife that when I retire I’m setting a goal for the 2022 Olympics, to be one of those skeleton riders,” he says with a laugh. “No, but I’ve got a lot of things to do. I don’t have a ‘bucket list,’ but I’m very involved with a lot of different things in the community.”

One of those things is the New York Special Olympics, which he’s been involved with for 45 years, coaching “anything they need a coach for” and volunteering at events throughout the state. In fact, he has kept spending time on campus even after his retirement, since the organization held its track and field and tennis events for the 2018

summer games at the college’s Outdoor Athletic Complex, a facility that was inspired by a conversation he had with former college vice president Alex Popovics.

He’s also involved in a business with his sons—the three are co-owners, along with two other business partners, of the Halfmoon Sportsplex, and Tom coaches soccer teams there for kids under the ages of 6, 8 and 10. And, of course, he remains active himself, spending time doing everything from skiing and swimming to golfing to biking and running. He’s participated in a variety of Iron Man races, triathlons, and a long list of other competitions, and he’s always ready to try out any other sport that piques his interest. In short, Tom Rogan is still very much in the game.

“It’s not just a profession. It’s part of what’s in here,” he explains, tapping his chest. “I always thought, if I can’t have fun, it’s time to check out. But that’s the thing—I’m still having fun.”

➤ Student Spotlight



A busload of Hudson Valley students, many of whom are in the college’s student Investment Club, visited the New York Stock Exchange in October for an up-close look at Wall Street. Club advisor and faculty member Joe Stenard accompanied the group, which numbered more than 50 students. Entrepreneurs Club advisor Jodi Mather and HonorScholar faculty mentor Marina Gore also chaperoned.



Student Raj Singh, a professional glass artist, is building the equipment he needs to streamline his art, from torches to furnaces. That’s how he wound up at Hudson Valley, taking classes in mechatronics and advanced manufacturing, which are giving him the skills he needs to design and build newer, better equipment. Raj shared his art with fellow students this spring.



They call it the Augmented Reality Sandbox, and no, it’s not going to take you to another dimension in time and space. But it has become an effective teaching tool for explaining topography, hydraulics, drainage and elevation for students in the Architecture, Civil Engineering and Construction Technologies programs. The sandbox uses advanced computer software and 3D projection to create a unique hands-on teaching tool.

SPORTS



FALL

FOOTBALL

Isaiah Moak and Niko Culnan received scholarships to continue their football careers at NCAA Division I institutions. Moak signed with the University of Rhode Island and Culnan signed with University at Albany.

MEN'S SOCCER

Garrett Axtmann was named the Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Had one of its best seasons in 12 years and finished with a 12-5 record. The team advanced to the Region 3 Championship. Earlier in the season, the squad defeated then No.1 Erie, 2-1, on the road; potentially one of the biggest wins in program history.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Sarah Sampson won the NJCAA Region 3 Championship at the No.3 Singles flight.

WINTER

BOWLING

Both men's and women's teams reached the Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional Tournament for the first time since 2014. Gina Patricelli was named an All-American for her fourth place finish at the national tournament, as well as All-Region and All-Conference honors.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Reached the Regional Tournament for the first time in three seasons behind record breaking performances by Hannah Kreiger. Hannah set a school record with 93 three-point baskets. The team improved from 4-20 in 2016-17 to finish this season with an overall record of 18-10. The team also set an NJCAA record for the most combined points in a game after defeating Corning 104-101 in double overtime.

SPRING

TRACK AND FIELD

Finished a successful first season with a Region 3 Championship. Elijah Washington was named the Region 3 Men's Field Athlete of the Meet following his wins in the hammer throw and shot put.

Ashley Martinez was named the Region 3 Women's Track Athlete of the Meet following her wins in the 100m and 200m. She also placed second in the 400m by 0.3 seconds, nearly completing the clean sweep in the women's sprint events.

BASEBALL

Reached the Region 3 Tournament for the second consecutive season, making it to the semi-final round. Jackson Wenstrom led the Vikings in every major offensive category (hits, doubles, home runs, RBIs and stolen bases) as well as NJCAA All-American First Team honors, Region 3 Player of the Year and Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year.

Tim Cramer tossed a perfect game in his first collegiate start in the Vikings 11-0 win over Columbia-Greene. Cramer struck out nine in the win.

MEN'S GOLF

Finished its inaugural season as a varsity sport at Hudson Valley. Nick Schrowang qualified as an individual participant at the NJCAA National Tournament and earned All-Region and All-Conference honors.





New Bowling coach Kristina Jenkins was recently named to the college's Athletic Hall of Fame. Jenkins was ranked as one of the top female bowlers in the nation during her two-year career at Hudson Valley Community College.

COACHING LEGEND STEPS DOWN AFTER 30 YEAR RUN; HALL OF FAMER STEPS IN

Coaching legend Joe Prest finished his 30th year at the helm of the men's and women's bowling program this year. Now, he's on to his next chapter: retirement.

Prest stepped down following a successful 2017-18 season, which saw the men's and women's programs reach the Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional Tournament for the first time since 2014. A two-time National Coach of the Year recipient, Coach Prest guided the Vikings to two NJCAA National Championships in 1995 and 2010.

At the annual Athletic Awards Banquet, Prest was awarded the 2018 Paul Bishop Award as the Hudson Valley Coach of the Year.

When the Vikings hit the lanes next year, they'll be guided by a familiar face: Kristina Jenkins, an Hudson Valley Community College Athletics Hall of Famer and two-time All-American who bowled for Prest during her time at the college.

An East Greenbush native, Jenkins won the NJCAA Kerm Helmer Most Valuable Player award as the Individual all-events champion during the 2007 season. She was also honored by the NJCAA with the Betty Jo Graber/National Female Student-Athlete Award in her final year at Hudson Valley. She continued bowling collegiately at the University of Central Florida.

"We are excited to announce Ms. Jenkins as the next head coach of our men's and women's bowling programs," said Director of Athletics Justin Hoyt. "She brings a wealth of experience and credibility to the position and shares the same educational and athletic vision in developing our student-athletes."



Prest



2017-18 STATS

- > 26 Academic All-Americans
- > 6 All-Americans
- > 28 All-Region 3 Selections
- > 32 All-Conference Selections
- > 1 Conference Coach of the Year (Travis Cooke, Men's Soccer)
- > 2 Region 3 Championships (Women's Tennis - Individual / Men's Track and Field)
- > 2 Conference Player of the Year
- > 1 Region 3 Player of the Year
- > 74 signed student-athletes to Letters of Intent for 2018-19

Distinguished Alumni Awards Re-Established

With an eye toward making it an annual event once again, the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation and Alumni Association reinstated their Distinguished Alumni Awards Brunch last fall.

The event, on Oct. 7, was part of the college's Homecoming celebration and recognized three distinguished alumni:

Mark T. Breslin '58

A Mechanical Engineering Technology graduate, Mark spent two decades working his way up through General Electric's turbine rotor design engineering department, and eventually served as manager of turbine and generator maintenance.

In 1983, Mark left GE to become vice president, partner and part owner of Mechanical Dynamics & Analysis, which provided engineering and repair services on turbine/generators. In 1995, he formed his own company, Maranda Technical, an engineering company providing consulting on turbine/generators to the utility industry.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for Hudson Valley. At 34 years old, when I finally received my bachelor's degree, I had four engineers working for me. I have this bond with the college. I received a great – but most importantly, useful – education."



M. Jeffrey Baker '81

Jeffrey Baker is a partner in the architecture firm of Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker, which has a unique specialization in the preservation and restoration of some of our nation's most important historic sites, most of which are listed as National Historic Landmarks or World Heritage Sites. Jeffrey has been a partner for over twenty years.

After his graduation from Hudson Valley, Jeffrey attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Building Science and a bachelor's degree in Architecture.

A few examples of the restoration work Jeffrey has been involved with: Thomas Jefferson's Monticello; James Madison's Montpelier; the Vermont State House; the New York State Capitol; Albany's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed campus at Florida Southern College.

"The devotion and professionalism of the professors and staff at the college was first class, and only matched by their kindness and helpfulness toward all of their students," said Jeffrey.



Rose B. Pascarell '86

Currently vice president for university life at George Mason University, Rose has held several leadership positions in the university, including associate vice president for university life, associate dean for campus life, and associate director of the women's studies research and resource center.

Her leadership has focused on increasing student engagement and academic success, and the building of just communities.

After completing her Criminal Justice degree at Hudson Valley, Rose earned a bachelor's in Sociology, Criminology and Conflict Analysis at the University at Albany. Her master's degree in Sociology is from George Mason University.

"The time I spent at Hudson Valley was memorable. I enjoyed being part of a community of great faculty members and student colleagues in the Criminal Justice department," she said. "In my current role as a university administrator, I realize just how special it is when those qualities come together."



Peter Marx Named Foundation's 2017 Outstanding Philanthropist

The Hudson Valley Community College Foundation named local businessman Peter Marx the 2017 recipient of its Outstanding Philanthropist Award. Marx received the award during the college's annual Leadership Donor Reception on Sept. 14 at the Franklin Plaza Rooftop Terrace in Troy.

The 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.

of the college's Construction Technology Program Fund and is a longtime corporate sponsor of the Foundation's annual golf fundraiser, which marked its 24th year in 2018.

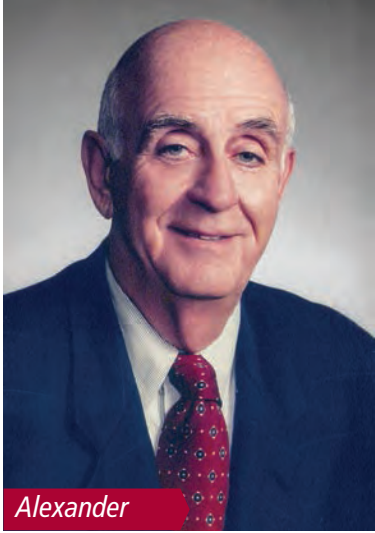
"Peter has provided funding, advice, and time to support the college for decades, and in doing so he has provided countless opportunities for so many of our students," said Foundation Executive Director Regina Scarano LaGatta '73. "It is our pleasure to recognize him with this award."

Hudson Valley's Construction Technology Program Fund supports scholarships, programming, professional development, community outreach, and equipment and supplies for students in the college's construction programs.

Proceeds from the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation U.W. Marx, Inc. Golf Classic have helped to fund scholarships for over 100 students, along with the creation of the Armed Forces Study Room in the Marvin Library, state-of-the-art equipment for the Science Center, and multiple new academic initiatives, including contributions to the college's nursing program.

Marx, who is the president of local construction company U.W. Marx, Inc., was honored for his myriad contributions to Hudson Valley. Most notably, he is responsible for the establishment

Giving Back to Hudson Valley: Two Stories of Philanthropy



Alexander

Peter Alexander

Peter Alexander looks back on a more than 50-year career in engineering and manufacturing and two things cross his mind.

The first is that he is blessed to have ridden a wave of hard work, persistence and entrepreneurship to a more than comfortable retirement. His second thought is that it all might not have happened if it wasn't for Hudson Valley Community College.

"This was in an old factory in downtown Troy that they did their best to turn into a school, but I can't say enough about the education I received and the

faculty at the time," he said. "There were a couple of choices – Automotive Tech, Construction Tech—but for whatever reason, I picked Heating and Air Conditioning."

Peter found work at the Fedders Co. in Buffalo, a manufacturer that was just getting into the home air conditioning market, and worked his way up to increasing responsibility in testing, engineering, sales and marketing at the company.

But in 1982, a colleague convinced him to join his start-up company in Houston, Goodman Manufacturing, which was hoping to build and distribute AC units in the southern United States.

Peter accepted, and stayed with Goodman through mergers and acquisitions and assignments around the country and around the world. In 2011, Goodman Manufacturing was sold for \$3.7 billion to Daikin, a Japanese company. He retired at age 78 in 2016.

Peter's major gift contributions to the Foundation over the past half dozen years have helped support the annual fund and the CAMS campaign as well as the students in the college's technology programs.

"Over the past couple years I've reflected a lot on my life and my career, and I think about how blessed I have been to have done the things I've done," he said. "Hudson Valley was the catalyst of my career. I owe a lot to the school. I want to do something to support the students who are there now."

Joanne McKeon

Joanne McKeon is a champion for second chances. And now, thanks to her efforts, more Hudson Valley students will be able to experience a second chance of their own, through the Mark McKeon Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship was started in memory of Joanne's son, Mark McKeon, who got his own second chance at Hudson Valley. Mark went to a four-year college after high school, but a summer job turned into what seemed like a more lucrative long-term possibility. It was not until his mid-twenties that he decided it was time to go back to school.

"He loved it at Hudson Valley. He loved his classmates and his professors, and he recommended to everyone that they start off at a community college. He got an excellent education at a lesser cost, and he loved how professors took a personal interest in students," Joanne recalls.

Mark graduated with an associate degree in Individual Studies in 1997 and went on to study International Labor at Cornell University before passing away in 1998. When Joanne's nephew, Dan Fitzgerald, suggested they start a scholarship in Mark's memory at Hudson Valley, she knew it would be a meaningful way to honor her son's memory while helping other students succeed.

"Scholarships are so important. So many students could not go on and finish their education without them," she says.

When Joanne got married recently, she and her new husband asked wedding guests to contribute to Mark's scholarship fund instead of giving gifts. Many of them did just that, and Joanne knows her son would be proud.

"Mark was a great son and a great guy. He would give his last dime to others. He was always ready to help."

"Scholarships are so important. So many students could not go on and finish their education without them."



McKeon

New Development Director Named

Angela O'Neal has a family history in education – her father was the first African American principal in the Albany City School District – so it makes sense that she's now dedicating her career to the same cause at Hudson Valley Community College.

O'Neal, hired by the college's Office of Institutional Advancement earlier this summer, will invest a large part of her time to cultivating major gifts,

developing new scholarship opportunities, and establishing planned gifts.

"I'm going to be spending a lot of time developing relationships, seeking major gifts, hopefully tying the development roles together. It takes time to build relationships but here at Hudson Valley there is such a love for the institution. I feel I came into an environment where there are students and alumni who have an attachment to the college. They have those strong memories of this place."

O'Neal previously worked in development at the University at Albany and the Newark Museum in New Jersey, and was most recently the executive director of the African American Cultural Center in Albany. She said she's looking forward to building relationships with stakeholders from the alumni and retiree community.

"We had a woman come into the Foundation office the other day, and she wanted to donate her husband's football jacket," she said. "He was an older alum, and he thought we might want it. She talked about how much the college meant to him and how much he loved his time here. Those kinds of relationships are important, and we need to cultivate those relationships."



Perez

Groundbreaking Alum Devotes His Life to Advocacy

"I'm passionate, but you need that to truly accomplish anything," he says. "I don't need external reinforcement. I do it because it's the right thing to do."

Despite not seeking recognition, there are times when recognition finds him. Most recently, Cliff was inducted into the New York State Disability Rights Hall of Fame. And while he's grateful for the honor—and the chance to share this special occasion with his mother, who helped foster his lifelong belief in his own abilities—he maintains that his work is far from done. Retirement is not at all on his radar, and he is perfectly happy with that—but even if that day comes, he has no plans to abandon the cause.

"We all need help from time to time, and I believe in helping people," he explains. "I believe it's the responsibility of every being to make this world better. Therefore, it's a constant thing for me."

That's a good attitude to have, because, Cliff points out, there's a constant supply of advocacy work to be done. Some of his biggest causes right now are transportation access and voting rights for people with disabilities, but there are hundreds of other issues to address.

Cliff is a firm believer that an accessible society is a better society for all, not only people living with disabilities. "I have a saying: 'When we the people make society accessible for and by people with disabilities, we will have an accessible society for all,'" he explains "I believe strongly that if we can help people with disabilities have access to society, it will help everybody."

Often, helpful changes are things that many people without disabilities use without a second thought. "Think about something like a curb cut, for example," he says. "Does that help a wheelchair user? Of course it does. Doesn't it also help a mother and her carriage? Doesn't it help anybody with anything they're pushing on wheels that they need to get up the street into a store? Things like that help everybody, and the list goes on and on."

He also points out that whether through illness, injury, or simply through aging, many people may find themselves with an acquired disability at some point in their lives. "But if we build things the right way in the first place, people have options later," he explains. "It's good for everybody."

In the meantime, his mission is to fight against a discriminatory mindset that sometimes keeps these changes from happening. His hope is that more people will start to understand that perspective—and that people will "respect their fellow humans just because of their humanity."

So what advice would he give to someone with a disability, or to those who want to help others? The answer lies in a unified approach.

"I would advise anyone with a disability to unite with other people with disabilities, because the best person to understand your situation is someone else who is living with that same situation," he says. "I'd also

encourage them to find an independent living center and get involved. Connect with others, get to know the issues that affect people, and take on a role in bringing about a change."

After that, he says, it's about connecting with the broader world—people with and without disabilities need to work together to address these struggles and bring about real, lasting change. And, he says, that begins on an individual level—often with something as simple as a smile.

"I believe in bringing joy to people's lives, and that the strongest systems advocacy is to change one individual who will then change others because of the impact you made on them," he explains. "If I make you smile, you might make somebody else smile, and I believe in that chain reaction. One of my mottos is to leave this world a better place than I found it, and I strive to live up to that."

"I believe in bringing joy to people's lives, because I believe that the strongest systems advocacy is to change one individual who will then go out and change others because of the impact you made on them."

Hudson Valley's Center for Access and Assistive Technology (CAAT):

- Serves approximately 650 students per semester
- Proctors roughly 4,000 tests per year
- Trains approximately 200 students per year on the Kurzweil 3000 reading software
- Trains students on various types of assistive technology, including voice recognition software, software for blind students, screen magnification software, smart pens and more
- Proctors approximately 75 placement tests per year for students
- Offers several trainings per year to the campus community on various topics such as the ADA, disability sensitivity, legal updates, and compliance
- Provides more than 40 peer and professional note takers to assist students in classroom settings
- Supports employees on campus who require accommodations, in conjunction with Human Resources

Growing up legally blind never stopped Hudson Valley alum Cliff Perez from setting big goals—or achieving them.

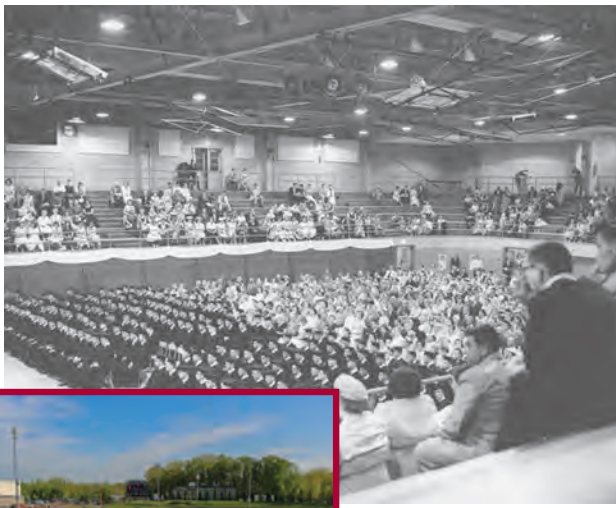
"I was always confident that there was nothing I couldn't do," he says. "I felt I could do anything a sighted person could do. Growing up, I wanted to be a pilot or an astronaut. I never thought I couldn't do it."

But Cliff has done something that appealed even more to him: dedicated his life to helping others. That confidence and determination have served him well over his 33 years of service as an advocate for people with disabilities, fighting to change the status quo, improve services and accessibility, and defend their rights.

His fight for advocacy and equal treatment began when he was a student at Hudson Valley in the late 1970s. To his knowledge, he was the first legally blind student to attend the college. Never one to be daunted by a challenge, he wowed his professors and peers by joining the track team, along with the student newspaper, the *Hudsonian*, as a sports photographer. With an aide by his side, he participated in chemistry labs and took exams verbally, and passed with flying colors. He eventually made the Dean's List, before graduating and earning a master's degree in social work from SUNY Stony Brook.

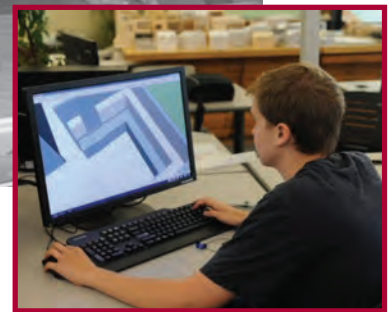
"Hudson Valley was the best college I could have gone to," he says. "They went out of their way to accommodate me to succeed." But for the majority of his time at the college, there was not yet a specific office on campus to address the needs of students with disabilities. Cliff's influence helped bring about the first Office of Disabled Student Services. Today, that office has evolved into the Center for Access and Assistive Technology, which serves more than 650 students with disabilities each semester.

Cliff's indomitable spirit and commitment to the cause has continued to serve him well, as he works to serve others. As the systems advocate for the Troy-based Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley (ILCHV), he's helped bring about decades of positive change. His enthusiasm for his work is both boundless and contagious. But for Cliff, this just comes naturally.



THEN & NOW

As we look back on more than six decades since the college's founding, the only constant has been change. New campuses, new buildings, new classrooms and labs, and always the continual striving to provide the best possible academic facilities for our students. Take a look back at how the college has changed over the decades.



Hudson Valley Community College
80 Vandenberg Avenue
Troy, NY 12180-6096

▶ SPIRIT DAY

Spirit Day was a chance for students, faculty and staff to come together, enjoy some food and show their college pride. The inaugural event, held on Dec. 6, also helped restock the college food pantry. Free Hudson Valley t-shirts were given out for those bringing in a non-perishable food item.



▶ Upcoming Alumni Events

▶ HOMECOMING 2018

Saturday, September 22, 2018

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI BREAKFAST

Bulmer Telecommunications Center, Meeting Rooms: 9 – 11 a.m.

MEET AND GREET BBQ WITH DR. ROGER RAMSAMMY

Outdoor Athletic Complex

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME / FACULTY, STAFF AND ALUMNI SOCIAL

Outdoor Athletic Complex

Vikings vs. East Coast Prep. - Kickoff: 1 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018

10TH ANNUAL RACE AWAY STIGMA 5K RACE & FUN WALK

Student Pavilion / Race starts: 10 a.m.

For information on any of these events, contact the Alumni Association at (518) 629-8012 or alumni@hvcc.edu