No Bars to Success
Criminal Justice Alumni—like Andra Ackerman ’91—Serve and Protect

Paving the Way
Alum’s Engraved Bricks to Benefit Hudson Valley

Hudson Valley’s 6th President to Take the Helm
Dr. Andrew J. Matonak Arrives in April
Richard Metzger ’72, owner of Signature Stones in Averill Park.

Engraved Brick Maker Honors His Foundation of Success

After a successful 25-year career as a pharmacist and business owner, Richard Metzger ’72 was looking for a change of pace.

So when a friend came to him a few years ago with the idea of taking small, semi-precious stones and putting images on them, Metzger caught the pitch. His Averill Park-based company, Signature Stones, was born in 1996, producing “Totem Power Stones.”

“We took the business from zero to $1.2 million in three years,” he said, with more than a hint of pride in his voice.

The next idea for the business hit Metzger, well, like a ton of bricks. He decided to diversify beyond the etched, semi-precious talismans and offer custom engraved bricks for sale to individuals, organizations and businesses looking for a new way to raise money for their special cause.

Since then, Signature Stones has sandblasted, etched and sold at least 50,000 bricks in three different sizes and two basic types — red clay bricks, and more expensive granite pavers — for dozens of projects throughout the region and beyond. More than 12,000 of those bricks alone were used for the Albany Riverwalk Pedestrian Bridge that connects downtown Albany to the Hudson River.

But Metzger is particularly proud that his alma mater is one of his customers. Signature Stones will supply at least 2,000 bricks, each engraved, to be used in the construction of the President’s Patio and walkway, which will encircle the east wing of the Guenther Enrollment Services Center on the Hudson Valley campus.

Proceeds from the sale of the bricks by the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation will benefit programs and services at the college. Metzger hopes alumni like him — those with “good, positive feelings about Hudson Valley” — will support their alma mater and the project, which is scheduled to be dedicated in the Spring.

“I feel close to Hudson Valley,” Metzger said. “Everybody could go, and depending on how hard you worked, you could do anything. It prepares you for the decisions you’ve got to make for the rest of your life.”

– Judith White

Interested in buying a brick to honor a colleague, friend, favorite professor or loved one, or as a permanent testament to your support of Hudson Valley Community College? Contact the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation at (518) 629-8012 or visit www.hvcc.edu/50/brick.
As a young child growing up in the social service system, **Andra Ackerman ’91** struggled to find a sense of belonging and support. She found both from loving foster parents who came into her life at age 14 — and Hudson Valley Community College.

“It was the first institution that I felt really believed in me,” said Ackerman, a Criminal Justice program graduate and Averill Park native who is bureau chief of the Special Victims Unit in the Schenectady County District Attorney’s office.

The college believed in her — and gave her the confidence to believe she could succeed in whatever field she pursued. “The college makes you feel like you are important; like you can make a difference.”

And make a difference she does: as a prosecutor, Ackerman works to protect domestic violence victims, the elderly, and society’s most vulnerable victims — children who have suffered severe abuse and neglect.

Students here are driven by “…a desire to do something that is important in society.”

— **Professor Ron Dow**

“To tell a child that I was in foster care too, you will see their eyes get wider,” she said. “I am able to build trust with a child by relating to a small piece of the trauma that he or she has been through.”

Ackerman is one of more than 3,000 Criminal Justice program graduates who serve and protect throughout New York State, working for law enforcement agencies on every level of government — local, county, state and federal.

A combination of top-notch, award-winning faculty — many of whom have hands-on law enforcement experience — and an up-to-date curriculum that responds to changes in law enforcement philosophy and technology makes the program consistently one of the college’s most popular offerings. In fact, enrollment has increased by 44 percent since 2000, and currently, 623 students are pursuing Criminal Justice degrees.

“The 9/11 tragedy has made us more concerned with law enforcement,” said Professor Ronald Dow, a recipient of the State University of New York Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and one of Ackerman’s professors. “I would love to think that it is a desire to do something that is important in society.”

Criminal Justice Department Chair Dr. Ann B. Geisendorfer added that the program’s popularity and stellar reputation can be attributed to word-of-mouth “advertising” by satisfied graduates — and the agencies for which they work.

“I came out knowing that whatever I chose to do in the criminal justice field I could conquer if I really wanted it and strove for it.”

— **Lisa M. Cupolo**
**President's Circle Reception:** The Hudson Valley Community College Foundation last year hosted its first-ever President’s Circle reception to recognize donors who contributed $1,000 or more to the college’s Annual Fund, which benefits the college’s greatest needs. Attendees included, from left to right, Linda Zuckerman, Nancy Grochmal Scarchilli ’71, John Scarchilli ’74, who served as chairman of the President’s Circle, and Gordon Zuckerman ’62. This year’s reception will be held on Thursday, June 23, at the Student Pavilion on Hudson Valley’s campus.

**1960s**

Gordon Zuckerman ’62 was elected president at the 86th annual delegates meeting of the New York State Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. Zuckerman is the president of Murray and Zuckerman Inc., a full-service wholesale insurance brokerage firm located in Schenectady.

Timothy W. O’Connor, P.E. ’68 received the PSMJ Resources Inc. first-ever Design Industry Outstanding CEO of the Year Award. This award was created to recognize and identify outstanding leadership and achievement by a chief executive officer of a design firm. O’Connor is the chief executive officer of RobsonWoese, Inc., an Amherst-based national professional services firm specializing in consulting, program management, engineering and construction services.

**1970s**

Joel Fatato ’71, vice president for finance at Hudson Valley Community College, has been recognized for his work by Community College Business Officers, a professional organization for business officers from community colleges and community college system offices in the United States and Canada. He received the Outstanding Chief Business Officer Award for the organization’s Region 13, which represents Delaware, New Jersey and New York. He was one of only 16 people nationally who received a regional award.

Michael DiDonna ’75 is the senior vice president of finance for Bank of America in Rochester, where he and his wife, Ellen, currently reside.

**1980s**

Dan Gorham ’81 sent his update from Kingston, where he is employed by WKNY as a radio news anchor and reporter.

Jeffrey R. Ordon ’86 recently accepted an executive position at the New York State Bar Association as a network support specialist.

David M. Mysliwiec ’87, a tax manager with T.M. Byxbee Company, recently earned the professional designation of certified specialist in estate planning. Mysliwiec also is licensed as a certified public accountant, certified financial planner and personal financial specialist.

**1990s**

Nicole Eddy ’97 recently received a promotion at the New York State Department of Public Service, where she works in the Office of Administration. Nicole also is recently engaged and just purchased her first home in Wynantskill; she is planning a Fall 2006 wedding.

Richard Toker ’98 is the director of pre-planning services at Hollomon-Brown Funeral Homes, in Norfolk, Va. He also is pursuing a degree in business management from Virginia Wesleyan College.

Carla (Herbert) Ogden ’99 is employed at Saratoga Springs Head Start, where she advocates for premature and autistic children. She also is a member of Albany Medical Center’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit parent support group and the Glens Falls Autism support group. She is married and the mother of 3-year-old Danielle and 2-year-old Matthew.

**2000s**

Adam Cichetti ’00, owner and executive producer for CI Productions, L.L.C., recently produced and released a CD titled “Cop that Compilation,” an album described as “creative and versatile with unique and exciting sounds.” According to Cichetti, his musical influences range from The Beatles to Tupac Shakur.

Thomas M. Perez ’00 currently serves as the director of gang prevention, technology, and environmental services at the Boys and Girls Club of Albany. He also received his bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University at Albany in 2002.

Heather Hillman ’01 received her bachelor’s degree from the University at Albany, where she studied political science and criminal justice. She is currently working as a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker Prime Properties in Clifton Park.

Scott D. Hughes ’01 completed his master’s degree from the University at Albany and is juris doctorate candidate for 2007.

Adam Stallmer ’01 has completed his second year of medical school at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, where he and his wife, Joy, are expecting their first child in August.

Robert Boudreau ’02 graduated from the University of Albany in May 2004 and received the New York State Society of CPAs Award from the university’s School of Business that same month. The award is presented annually to the graduating senior with the top grade point average in UAlbany’s Accounting program. Boudreau is now pursuing graduate studies.
Carmen Masters’ return to school as an adult has been, in her own words, “a wonderful experience.”

And it has been an experience made easier by a scholarship from the Rensselaer County Association of Town Superintendents of Highways through the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation.

“The funds provided by the scholarship will cover the cost of my books and supplies… allowing me to spend more time on my studies and less time worrying about money,” Masters wrote in a letter to the Foundation’s Scholarship Committee.

Masters, who is studying Civil Engineering Technology, is a President’s List student and is on track to graduate with high honors in May. She also is a single mom with a 7-year-old daughter.

“Our small family has made some sacrifices in this adventure, but we know that the hard word and dedication will pay off in the long run,” she continued.

“Showing my daughter the persistence to push forward has made me very proud of my progress these past two years.”

“Thank you so much for your support, gentlemen and ladies. I only hope I can pass on the kindness you have shown me when I am in a position to do so.”

Your investment in Hudson Valley Community College’s Annual Fund helps pass on the kindness. Use the enclosed envelope to send your gift today.
Hudson Valley Community College broke the 12,000-student mark for the first time in its 52-year history, enrolling 12,316 students in credit-bearing courses or programs for the Fall 2004 semester. The record-breaking enrollment is attributable to several factors, including:

- An 18.6 percent increase in students enrolled in College in the High School courses, which allow high school students to receive college credits for classes they take at their high schools.
- A 9 percent increase in enrollment in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which was fueled by enrollments in the school’s Criminal Justice; Early Childhood/Teacher Preparation; Fine Arts/Theater Arts/Broadcast Communications; and Individual Studies programs.

The college is now the fifth largest community college in the State University of New York system; prior to this year, it had been ranked seventh. Hudson Valley also is a member of an elite group of only 186 community colleges in the nation with enrollment in credit-bearing courses that exceeds 10,000.

Another 14,000 people take advantage of the college’s non-credit and business and industry training offerings annually.

Andrew J. Matonak, Ed.D., who was appointed the sixth president in Hudson Valley’s history in November 2004, will officially take the helm on Monday, April 18.

Matonak, 50, comes to the college from Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa, where he has served as president since 2002. He has nearly 30 years of experience in higher education, and is a community college graduate himself: he received the first of his four academic degrees from Butler County Community College in Butler, Penn.

“I didn’t have the greatest high school experience, and my option for higher education was Butler County Community College,” he explained. “If it wasn’t for those individuals at the college who supported me and kicked me in the tail at the same time, I would not be where I am today.”

“I decided, because of that experience, that my career would be community college education. I wanted to give back to other students the same opportunity that was given to me.”

Matonak also holds a bachelor’s degree from the College of Wooster; a master’s degree from Michigan State University; and a doctorate in education from the University at Houston.

He replaces Marco J. Silvestri, Ph.D., who has been interim president since the college’s fifth president, John L. Buono ’68, retired in December 2003.

Andrew J. Matonak, Ed.D. Career Highlights

Vice President for Student Development and adjunct instructor, Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, Ohio, 1995–2002.


Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1987–1989.

Price Chopper Supermarkets has partnered with the college to create an innovative program linking the Business Administration program to the supermarket chain’s in-store management training program.

The collaboration will eventually lead to a 32-credit certificate program in Supermarket Management and Operations exclusively for Price Chopper associates. Academic leaders from Hudson Valley and training professionals from Price Chopper are working together to develop four new courses.

Those new courses, and the certificate program of which they are a part, must be approved by the college’s governance structure, and the State University of New York and the New York State Education Department. The college expects to have those approvals so the four new courses can be offered in the Spring 2006 semester.

A Region III football championship was the highlight of a successful fall season for Hudson Valley athletics.

The football team (8-3) continued its supremacy in the region, winning its fourth Region III title in the last five years and its third Northeast Football Conference championship in the last four years. Hudson Valley defeated Erie Community College, 23-22, in the first-ever Northeast Football Conference championship game, and finished the season ranked No. 20 in the final NJCAA poll.

In addition, three team members will continue their football careers and education at Division I schools: Defensive end Jonal Saint-Dic will attend Michigan State University, offensive tackle Darnell Stapleton will attend Rutgers University, and linebacker Shonda Faulkner will attend Indiana State University.

On the court, the women’s volleyball and tennis teams each had their best season in more than five years. Tennis players Kim Wintergerst, Mary Nguyen and Isma Butt all advanced to the Region III tournament finals, where the Lady Vikings finished third. The volleyball team qualified for the Region III tournament for the first time since 1998.

Students interested in pursuing a career in the tourism, convention and event management industry can now earn a Marketing degree that is geared specifically toward that growing field.

The college now offers a Tourism, Convention and Event Management option within its Marketing program. The option combines core courses offered through the Marketing program and three new courses: Introduction to Convention and Events, Events Management, and Tourism and Resorts.

“This is yet another way that Hudson Valley Community College is responsive to the community and changes in the marketplace,” said Ann Marie Murray, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business. “Also, as the Tech Valley initiative grows, so will the need for these types of jobs, which will be essential to the local economy.”

For more information, visit www.hvcc.edu/tcem.
A golden opportunity to give something back.

As a fellow alumnus, I invite you to join me in supporting Hudson Valley Community College. Hudson Valley has touched the lives of nearly 300,000 people — people like you and me. Like the bequest I’ve made, your gift helps today’s students through scholarship assistance, purchases vital classroom equipment, underwrites lecture series and arts programs, funds academic initiatives and curriculum development, supports scientific projects.

— Dr. Robert S. Menchel ’55

Planned gifts may provide tax advantages for both you and your family, while giving you the satisfaction of making a lasting impact on the lives of future students and our community.

We can help you determine which deferred gift option is right for you:
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Life Insurance
- Heritage Society Bequests

From left to right, Nicholas Buono poses for a photo with his dad, John; mom, Bobbie; sister, Christine; and niece, Lexie.

A reception honoring former Hudson Valley President John L. Buono ’68 for his commitment to the college and the community raised more than $27,000 to benefit the college’s Disability Resource Center.

More than 150 people attended the event, which was held in November at the Bulmer Telecommunications Center.

The money will form the basis of an endowment for the center, which currently serves more than 500 students with disabilities, assisting them in the pursuit of their educational objectives. The endowment will allow the college to enhance services the center provides to students, including specialized adaptive equipment that assists them with everything from note-taking and reading, to advocacy on campus and with state or federal agencies.

Under the leadership of Director Pablo Negron, the Disability Resource Center’s philosophy is that the men and women it serves are students first, and their disabilities are secondary. The staff fosters a supportive atmosphere and coordinates services that allow students with disabilities to be as independent and self-reliant as possible.

While serving as president, Buono came to know many of the center’s students personally — and their determination to not just to succeed, but to excel — had a profound impact upon him. As a result, in addition to requesting that the reception’s proceeds benefit the center, Buono and his wife, Bobbie, have included the center in their estate plans.

Because of that planned gift, the Buonos are now members of the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation’s Heritage Society. Interested in learning more? Visit foundation.hvcc.edu/plannedgiving or call Marvin R. LeRoy Jr., director of major gifts and gift planning, at (518) 629-8007.

John L. Buono Honored for Commitment to College, Community

Web for Alumni

Staying connected with your alma mater just got easier – thanks to Hudson Valley Community College’s new “Web for Alumni.”

By accessing Web for Alumni, you can update your personal information, e-mail other alumni, submit Class Notes, participate in alumni surveys, view your personal giving history and make a pledge to the college’s Annual Fund.

Interested? Visit www.hvcc.edu and click on the link to Hudson Valley WIReD (on the bottom left side of the page). Once you’re on the WIReD page, click Login to Hudson Valley WIReD now.

Your User ID is your Hudson Valley Community College Personal Identification Number, which can be found on the address label of this Valley View (it starts with H00, and is a total of nine characters long). When you log on the first time, your PIN is your date of birth in following format: MMDDYY.

Once you have logged in for the first time, you will be asked to change your PIN for added security.

After you have successfully logged on, click on Alumni and Friends, and start exploring your options. For more information, contact Aimee A. LaLiberte, director of alumni affairs and annual giving, at (518) 629-8077 or alumni@hvcc.edu.
**Spring Scholarship Reception**  
Monday, May 2, 2005  
2 p.m.  
Bulmer Telecommunications Center

**Hudson Valley's 51st Commencement**  
Saturday, May 21, 2005  
9 a.m.  
McDonough Field House

**Class of 1955 50th Reunion**  
Saturday, May 21, 2005  
Additional details to come.

**Distinguished Alumnus Award Luncheon**  
Thursday, June 2, 2005  
Noon  
McDonough Field House

**President’s Circle Reception**  
Thursday, June 23, 2005  
6 p.m.  
Student Pavilion

**11th Annual Golf Outing**  
Monday, July 18, 2005  
The Country Club of Troy

**First-Ever Alumni Golf Outing**  
Monday, July 18, 2005  
See below for details.

Please call (518) 629-8012 or visit alumni.hvcc.edu and click on “Events” for more information.

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**Alumni Golf Outing**  
Please join us for the first-ever Hudson Valley Community College Alumni Golf Outing! Scramble format – limited to 40 golfers.

Monday, July 18, 2005  
The Country Club of Troy  
7:15 a.m. – 8 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
7:30 a.m. Registration  
8 a.m. Shotgun Start  
Noon: Luncheon

For more information on registration fee and event sponsorship opportunities, visit foundation.hvcc.edu/golfclassic.

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A performance and book signing by best-selling author, poet and screenwriter Sherman Alexie was the highlight of Hudson Valley's cultural affairs offerings for the Fall 2004 semester. More than 700 people attended the event. Alexie's book, “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven,” was the basis for his first screenplay, “Smoke Signals,” which won the Audience Award and the Filmmaker’s Trophy at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival.

Hudson Valley celebrated Mardi Gras in style with a performance by Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers. The band's appearance in February 2005 also was part of the college's Cultural Affairs offerings.

For more information about events on campus, visit www.hvcc.edu/events.