Bringing Smiles to the Region

Dental Hygiene Program Provides Staffing, Free Clinics

Building on Knowledge

Capital Region’s #1 Home Builder Draws on Hudson Valley Experience — and Grads

Generous Gift to Benefit Electrical Construction and Maintenance Program
A Foundation to Build on

When your parents meet because your dad's father built your mom's father's house, you just may be destined to become a homebuilder yourself.

And when you start following your father to work sites at age 10, learning firsthand how to attach a switch plate and run wires, a career in home construction might seem almost a birthright.

"By the time I was 14, I knew how to wire a house," Richard Rosetti recalled.

But Rosetti has done more than just follow in his grandfather and father's footsteps. He has turned three generations of home building knowledge into Rosewood Home Builders, rated the Capital Region's number one homebuilder by The Business Review.

Hudson Valley Community College has played an important role in Rosetti's success. Spending a year at Hudson Valley in 1982 helped prepare Rosetti to succeed later at Siena College. "If I went to Siena right out of high school, I don't know if I would have made it," he recalled.

Not only did Hudson Valley show Rosetti what college coursework was like, but the instructors in the Electrical Construction and Maintenance program taught Rosetti the theories behind his practical knowledge.

"I think it's important to have that fundamental background. It helps my credibility when I'm selling a home or talking to someone on a job site and I have that knowledge," Rosetti said.

Rosetti's relationship with the college didn't end when he transferred to Siena. Today, nearly a quarter of his approximately 30 employees have attended the college, too. "Hudson Valley is one of the few schools that puts people in the trades. You can learn a skill and take it anywhere," he added.

Rosewood Home Builders constructs nearly 100 signature homes a year, but Rosetti isn't standing still. He continues to expand his business, including creating a 4,000-square-foot design center at his Latham offices where home buyers can pick tiles, fixtures or cabinets and see how they look in simulated kitchens, bathrooms and dens.

"The best part about our business is you're fulfilling people's dreams and affecting their lives in a positive way," Rosetti said. "To me, it's not a housing development, it's a community you're building."

— Jason McCord

On the cover: Dental Hygiene student Tuy Chung and Dr. Christopher Walsh show 4-year-old RoseMary Flavin how to brush with the help of a stuffed animal during Give Kids a Smile Day, an annual event designed to raise awareness of the need for early and consistent dental care for all children. An initiative of the American Dental Association, the event is sponsored by the college, the Third District Dental Society, the Fourth District Dental Society and the New York State Dental Association.

The college's 36-station Dental Hygiene Clinic serves more than 1,800 children and adults, many of whom are uninsured or elderly, annually. Other Dental Hygiene programs facts:

- Program established: 1960
- Graduates, Class of 2005: 34
- Current students: 74 (39 first-year, 35 second-year)
- Number of applicants annually: Approximately 300
“Absolutely Essential” Program Brings Smiles to the Region

**Endowment created to support Dental Hygiene**

Like most area dentists, Dr. Douglas Smail shudders to think what would happen to the Capital Region’s dental health without Hudson Valley Community College. Offering the only Dental Hygiene program within 100 miles, the college has trained so many of the region’s dental hygienists that many dentists rely solely on its graduates to staff their practices.

“It’s absolutely essential,” said Dr. Smail, a Troy dentist who is president-elect of the Third District Dental Society. “I can’t stress enough the importance of the school and how well it’s run. The Dental Hygiene staff really does a professional job.”

But educating the region’s dental hygienists comes at a price. The college spends $44,082 to educate one Dental Hygiene student during the course of the two-year degree program, while receiving only $15,890 in revenue.

“I can’t stress enough the importance of the school and how well it’s run.”

— Dr. Douglas Smail

A variety of factors drive that high-cost-to-low-revenue ratio, including accreditation standards that require one faculty member for every six students, and the equipment and facilities necessary for the program. That operating deficit has dentists such as Dr. Brian Kennedy, past president of the New York State Dental Association, concerned.

“If Hudson Valley’s Dental Hygiene program wasn’t around, you’d have an even more significant access to care problem,” Dr. Kennedy added.

As a practicing dentist who also chairs the college’s Board of Trustees, Dr. Robert H. Hill II has consistently heard those concerns from colleagues.

The need for hygienists is great. According to the state Labor Department, there are approximately 350 openings for hygienists in the state annually. The demand in the Capital Region is even greater, with dental hygienist listed as the seventh fastest growing career.

“If Hudson Valley Community College cut its Dental Hygiene program because of cost concerns, making Hudson Valley one of only nine colleges in the state to offer a Dental Hygiene program.

To address those concerns — and ensure that the Dental Hygiene program remains strong — the college’s Foundation is creating a Dental Hygiene Endowment Fund, the first of its kind to benefit a high-cost program.

The college will host a gala on Friday, Oct. 20, to kick off the endowment campaign. “If we can create an endowment within the Dental Hygiene program, we can cover some of these costs,” Dr. Hill said.

Department Chairperson Judith Romano credited faculty and students for the program’s success. Most students earn spots on the Dean’s and President’s lists, and they are devoted to their careers and their communities.

Take Heather Daly ’00. In addition to working in two separate dental practices, Daly works one day a week for the Seal a Smile program with six other hygienists who also are Hudson Valley graduates. The Albany-based program provides dental services to pupils in elementary schools in low-income areas.

Daly’s work — and the work of so many other graduates and students — is essential to the community’s health. Last year, the college’s 36-station Dental Hygiene Clinic served nearly 1,800 children and adults, many of whom are uninsured or elderly. Dental Hygiene students served another 3,000 pupils in schools, because the program’s curriculum requires them to help teach the importance of brushing and dental care.

“They love going out in the community,” Romano said. “It’s probably their highlight here because that’s why they chose this career.”

— Jason McCord

**Susan Goard ’71 and Paula Hoffay ’71**, two Dental Hygiene alumnae, are helping to organize the event. They hope not only to raise money, but to recognize the importance of the dental profession and the college’s impact on it.

The event will kick off the endowment campaign for the program; a short-term goal of $250,000 has been set. Sponsorships are being offered at the following levels: Bronze: $1,000; Silver: $2,500; Gold: $5,000; Platinum: $10,000; and Named Operatories: $25,000.

For more information about the event or sponsorship opportunities, please call the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation at (518) 629-8012 or visit foundation.hvcc.edu/events.
1960s
David Gebhardt ’61 works in the sales department at Johnstone Supply. He lives in Averill Park with his wife, Jane.

1970s
Diane Bouchard ’70 is the development direct mail coordinator for the University at Albany.
John Aksic ’71 is the vice president for government affairs and managed care services at Oncology Therapeutics in St. Louis, Mo.

Michael DiDonna ’75 resides in Rochester, where he is employed by Bank of America as vice president of mortgage lending.

Maura Farrell Miller, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., B.C., ’75 lives in Jupiter, Fla., where she is employed by the Department of Veteran Affairs. Miller also completed her doctoral studies in philosophy in 1996 at the University of Miami.

James Mooney ’77 has been employed with Schenectady Radiologists since 1990 and currently serves as the practice administrator.

Brian Sharlow ’79 lives in North Syracuse, where he is employed by Lockheed Martin as a skilled trades leader.

1980s
This year, Alfred Vega ’81 will celebrate his 25th anniversary with his employer, Newport New Ship Buildings, a Newport, Va.-based company owned by Northrup Grumman. Vega is a senior designer.

Konstantinos Kananis ’84 is employed by the New York Bankers Association as a field marketing manager for New York State.

Joanne Dwyer ’87 was recently promoted and is now director of food sourcing at the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

John Rooney ’89 received a promotion to Critical Care Area charge nurse for St. Clare’s Hospital in Schenectady.

1990s
Lora Abbott ’93 is a corrections officer with the Rensselaer County Sheriff’s Department; she holds the rank of sergeant.

Jennifer Howe Rider ’95 and her husband, Matt Rider ’95, are proud to announce the birth of their twin boys, Thomas Paul and Nathan Gordon, in April 2005. In addition, Matt was selected in October 2005 as an outstanding technical contributor and received “Technical Honors” in the 2005 Technical Honors Program from Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems. He was chosen through a peer-based selection process that involved online rating by individual technical contributors. Matt is a senior electrical engineer specializing in phased array antenna design at Raytheon in Sudbury, Mass.

Michelle Capasso Secor ’96 was married in November 2005 to Chris Secor.

After completing her studies at Hudson Valley, Sarah Kowalski ’97 went on to receive her MBA from Mount Saint Mary College, where she is an adjunct professor in the business department. Kowalski took a position recently as the director of quality initiatives for the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association in Newburgh.

Richard Toker ’98 is a licensed and practicing funeral director in the state of Virginia and was a close friend of the late Theodore Mikolinis ’98.

Harry VanVliet ’98 has successfully completed all prescribed licensing requirements set forth by the New York State Bureau of Funeral Directing, and is now a licensed funeral director. Harry joined the staff of Joseph V. Leahy Funeral Home in Kingston in July 2005 and will continue to work there as funeral director.

Cheryl Rankey ’99 was promoted to director of annual fund and special constituencies for the Northeast Health Foundation, the fund development branch of Northeast Health in Troy. She has been with Northeast Health since 1999.

Patrick Trippany ’99 lives in Albany with his wife, Jennifer, and is a firefighter/paramedic with the Albany Fire Department.

2000s
Jeffrey Stuart ’01 was hired by Clough, Harbour & Associates in Albany as an engineering designer. In his new position, Stuart creates computer-generated design and drafting documents for wireless communications sites.

Kimberly Lutsic ’02 resides in Cropseyville and is employed by Verizon as an associate/CWA steward. She is pursuing a degree in computer information systems at the College of Saint Rose.

Remembering President Fitzgibbons

Former Hudson Valley Community College President James J. Fitzgibbons, who served as president from 1965 through 1979, died in December. He was 90.

Fitzgibbons is remembered by friends, colleagues and the college community as a consummate gentleman who presided over an impressive period of growth at the college, including the construction of five new buildings on campus and a 4,000-student increase in enrollment.

“He was a consummate gentleman, one of the most decent men I ever worked for,” said Abraham Bolgatz, who served as dean of community services under Fitzgibbons. “He was a great leader.”

Fitzgibbons was the college’s second president. During his 14-year tenure, Hudson Valley was transformed from a largely technical college into one of the state’s most comprehensive community colleges, offering degrees in business, liberal arts, the health sciences and technologies.

“President Fitzgibbons was a strong leader who helped guide this institution through two decades of growth and accomplishment,” President Andrew J. Matonak said. “His legacy lives on in the Fitzgibbons Health Technologies Center and in the stellar reputation he helped build for this college.”

From left to right, former Hudson Valley Presidents James J. Fitzgibbons, John L. Buono and Joseph J. Bulmer share a moment together at a luncheon in May 2003 that was hosted by then-President Buono as part of the college’s year-long 50th anniversary celebration.

Diane Bouchard ’70
David Gebhardt ’61
J. Fitzgibbons, John L. Buono and Joseph J. Bulmer share a moment together at a luncheon in May 2003 that was hosted by then-President Buono as part of the college’s year-long 50th anniversary celebration.

New York State’s legislative session is in full swing, and for the first time ever, you can go online to show your support for Hudson Valley Community College’s budget priorities for the 2006-07 state budget.

www.SupportSUNY.org is an online advocacy tool that will allow you to identify your state representatives, learn more about the State University of New York’s priorities for the 2006-07 budget, and e-mail your concerns directly to your local legislators and other state and federal representatives.

The Web site offers details about SUNY’s budget priorities for its community colleges, which include:

- Increased funding for base aid. The SUNY proposal would allow the state to meet its traditional one-third share of funding, which requires base-aid funding of $2,600 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, or $150 per FTE above the Executive Budget’s $100-per-FTE increase.
- Supplemental aid for high-need, high-cost programs in nursing, allied health, engineering and other technical programs. The college is suffering from a very large revenue gap on many programs, and is unable to expand the programs despite workforce shortages and student waiting lists.

Visit www.SupportSUNY.org, click on “Increase State Funding for SUNY Community Colleges,” and reach out to your state legislators to remind them how important Hudson Valley Community College—and the whole State University system—is to you and all New Yorkers.

Deaths
Robert S. Albano ‘56
Eugene Nicholas Ferri ‘56
Joseph A. McKeeveer ‘56
Robert R. Daigneault ‘57
Francis J. Montepare ‘63
Leo S. Slawienski ‘63
Joseph W. DeCrescenzo ‘67
Michael J. Halpin ‘75
Robert H. Fay ‘76
Mark D. Jurcsak ‘77
John P. Barry ‘79
Michael Maron ‘80
Stephen J. McDonald ‘81
Arthur N. Cocca ‘82
Edwin F. Traeger ‘82
Donald P. Washock ‘92
Jason R. DiDonna ‘95
Theodore (Ted) Mihailnus ‘98
Sean T. Donovan ‘99
Elizabeth A. Charnock ‘00
John J. Quell ‘00
William H. Dickson ‘01

Note: News of Alumni Engagements and Marriages has been moved online. Visit alumni.hvcc.edu for the latest news.

Cindy Moseley ’03 lives in Albany and works at Boscov’s in Colonie Center as a soft lines area manager.

Shannon Boughton ’04 is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in nutrition at Russell Sage College in Troy. She is employed at Delmar Health and Fitness.

Antwan Gibson ’04 is pursuing his bachelor’s degree in business management at Norfolk State University and will complete his studies in May 2006.

Kevin Denton ’05 lives in Springfield, Colo., where he works as the director of respiratory services at Southeast Colorado Hospital.

Jason Fessel ’05 is employed by Sears in Colonie Center as an auto technician.

Darren Heffelfinger ’05 was hired by Clough, Haber & Associates in Albany as an instrument person. In this position, Heffelfinger will operate total station and electronic data collectors and GPS receivers and assist with field calculations and sketches.

Meghan Pulver ’05 lives in Chatham and is a registered nurse at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Now’s the time to give something back.

Although Hudson Valley is a public community college, only 53 percent of its operating budget is government assisted. And tuition covers only a portion of the difference.

The balance comes from friends like you.

Please give generously to the 2005-06 Annual Fund. With your help, Hudson Valley Community College will continue its tradition of giving people like you a remarkable and valuable experience. And, if you are a New York State employee, you can make your gift through payroll deduction.

Use the enclosed remittance envelope to mail your gift.

Or contact: Hudson Valley Community College Foundation
Phone: (518) 629-8012 • E-mail: foundation@hvcc.edu
Electrical Construction and Maintenance students are now being trained in an emerging technology that has received a lot of attention as energy costs have soared: photovoltaic (solar cell) technology.

The college received a $148,000 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to develop two photovoltaic installation, maintenance and repair courses, and a laboratory to provide students with hands-on experience with the new technology.

The college plans to build upon these two courses by creating a certificate program in photovoltaic installation. Ultimately, NYSERDA and college officials would like Hudson Valley to become a nationally accredited training center with certified instructors.

Haas Automation Inc., the largest machine tool builder in the country, has provided the college with two state-of-the-art machine tools valued at $129,600 for its Manufacturing Technical Systems program.

The Super VF-2 Vertical Machine Center and an SL-20 Lathe will provide students with experience using industry-standard equipment in the field of precision machining.

Jim Hamilton, an instructor in the Manufacturing Technical Systems program, contacted officials at Haas after learning how the company helped other colleges with similar programs. Haas provides machine tools to colleges across the country as part of an active program to help train machinists and engineers for a manufacturing industry currently experiencing a shortage of skilled labor.

The college has embarked upon a unique training partnership with CVS, creating a mock pharmacy inside its Albany Extension Center to host non-credit training for pharmacy technicians.

The 120-hour course will provide a foundation for those interested in becoming pharmacy technicians, and also is designed to prepare students for the National Pharmacy Technician Examination.

With credit-bearing allied health programs in nursing, dental hygiene, radiological technology, respiratory care and paramedic education, the college provides the Capital Region with a strong health care workforce.

This new program joins other credit-free offerings that support the health care field, including courses in medical transcription, and billing and coding offered through the Workforce Development Institute.

After a 14-year hiatus, the college once again offers Arabic Language and Culture I, an introductory course in the Arabic language. A recent study published in the journal Science predicts that by the year 2050, Arabic will nearly equal Urdu, Spanish, and English as the second most widely spoken language in the world. Mandarin Chinese is the largest language in terms of native speakers.

Language course offerings are growing at the college, with Chinese and Russian language studies being added in 2004 to Japanese, Italian, German, French and Spanish. The college also offers American Sign Language.

The demand for foreign language courses is growing, in part, because of the SUNY General Education Core Requirement, which mandates all students who complete bachelor's degrees at SUNY schools to take at least three credit hours of foreign language.

6 campus news

Tom Reinisch of North Greenbush is the new athletic director. In that role, he oversees Hudson Valley’s 14 varsity sports and intramural program. Approximately 250 students participate in intercollegiate athletics annually.

Reinisch was hired first as an admissions counselor in 1993, and served as the associate director of student development in the Center for Counseling and Transfer since 2000.

He also served as Hudson Valley’s baseball coach for the last 10 seasons, leading the team to nine consecutive Region III final four appearances. He is a two-time winner of the Paul Bishop Coach of the Year Award.

Phil White is the new dean of the School of Business and School of Engineering and Industrial Technologies. More than 2,600 students are enrolled in the 27 programs in the two schools.

White has been at Hudson Valley for 15 years; he was hired as an adjunct faculty member and became a full-time automotive instructor in 1995.

He most recently served as chairperson of several academic departments in the School of Engineering and Industrial Technologies, including Automotive, Electrical Engineering Technology, and Manufacturing Technical Systems.
With Gratitude and Generosity, Alumnus Makes a Historic Gift

More than half a century ago, a Hudson Valley education helped Robert Pratt ’55 start a lifelong career with AT&T. Now he is saying thanks by making the single largest gift to Hudson Valley by an alumnus in the college’s history.

A member of Hudson Valley’s very first student class, Pratt has donated a life insurance policy to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation to benefit the college and its students. The proceeds from the policy will be used in three ways:

- To enhance the college’s general endowment;
- To establish an endowment to benefit the college’s Electrical Construction and Maintenance program; and
- To establish an endowed fund that will produce a President’s Circle-level gift to the college’s Annual Fund each year in perpetuity. President’s Circle gifts total at least $1,000 annually.

“I hope some students, current or forthcoming, will be able to use what’s there,” Pratt remarked, unassumingly.

Giving the historic gift was an easy decision for Pratt, who, together with his wife, Helen, has lived a modest life in Albany. “That’s where I got my exposure to electronics,” said Pratt, explaining why he made the gift to the college.

“And my social skills,” he added with a chuckle.

Stepping forward to help others is nothing new for Pratt. Like most of Hudson Valley’s first students, Pratt was a Korean War veteran, having served two hitches in the U.S. Army, first in the infantry then in the Signal Corps relaying encrypted messages to headquarters in Tokyo.

When Pratt returned to the states, his father’s dairy farm in Buskirk was his first stop. But after milking cows for a couple years, and working a few construction jobs in the region, he wanted something else.

So taking a friend’s advice — and after convincing a Vermont banker who had never heard of the school to loan him $500 so he could enroll — Pratt and his buddy studied Electrical Technology at a fledgling school called Hudson Valley Technical Institute.

“He said ‘Come on, you’ll like it.’ And I did, and we did,” Pratt recalled.

The two men and their classmates, 88 in all, took classes in downtown Troy, in what was once a collar-and-cuff factory at the corner of Broadway and Seventh Avenue. The land where the college campus now sits wouldn’t even be purchased until after Pratt graduated.

“The teachers were very helpful, very energetic and well picked for their jobs,” Pratt said, recalling that the classes were as challenging as his winter-weather drives from Buskirk.

“I slithered down to Troy in some winters that weren’t so pretty,” Pratt remembered. But he stuck with it, encouraged by words from his mother, Leonora, an elementary teacher who taught her son the importance of education.

Upon graduation, Pratt and a half-dozen classmates were recruited by AT&T. He stayed with the company for 33 years, working on State Street in Albany, testing and maintaining telephone circuits. In the 1960s, Pratt was part of the design team that built a worldwide network for General Electric.

To recognize Pratt’s generosity, the college has named its electronics laboratory in Williams Hall after Pratt and his mother, Leonora. He also is a member of the Foundation’s Heritage Society, which recognizes individuals who have provided, or plan to provide, charitable gifts through bequests, trusts or other life income gifts. During a recent tour of the lab, Joseph Sarubbi, chairperson of the Electrical Construction and Maintenance Department, shared with Pratt the importance of his gift.

“The money will help us keep pace with technology needed in the lab,” Sarubbi explained. “It will ensure we have the best equipment.”

— Jason McCord

For more information about planned giving or the Heritage Society, contact Marvin LeRoy at (518) 629-8007 or foundation@hvcc.edu.

Goody Named New Annual Giving Director

Nancy Goody will oversee charitable annual giving campaigns, including the college’s Annual Fund, for the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation.

Gifts to the Annual Fund are unrestricted and allow the college to fund unmet needs and seize unexpected opportunities; gifts to the Annual Fund have benefited the college’s technology needs, student scholarships, campus beautification efforts and services for disabled students. In 2004-05, gifts to the Annual Fund totaled more than $200,000, and gifts to the Foundation exceeded $770,000.

Goody has more than a decade of experience in development and fundraising, and comes to Hudson Valley from the Albany Symphony Orchestra, where she served as director of development. Prior to that, she served as vice president of development at Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood.
More Than Just Wire and Wood: The Fine Art of Guitar Building
A lecture and demonstration by luthier Michael Collins
11 a.m. Thursday, April 20
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

Directed Study in Drawing and Painting
An exhibit by Hudson Valley's Fine Arts students
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Reception, Thursday, May 4
Teaching Gallery, Marvin Library

Spring Scholarship Reception
3 p.m. Monday, May 8
Field House at the McDonough Sports Complex

52nd Commencement Ceremony
9 a.m. Saturday, May 20
Field House at the McDonough Sports Complex

2006 Golf Classic
To benefit the 2005-06 Annual Fund
12:30 p.m. Monday, July 24
Country Club of Troy

2006 Foundation Awards Reception
To honor alumni, businesses and friends for their support of the college
Noon Thursday, Sept. 21
Field House at the McDonough Sports Complex
For more information or to nominate someone for distinguished service to the college or the community, visit alumni.hvcc.edu/nomination or call (518) 629-8077. Nominations are due by June 1, 2006.

Raymond H. Siek Campus Center Re-dedication
5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28
Siek Campus Center

Celebration of Excellence
An event to recognize the Dental Hygiene program
6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20
Field House at the McDonough Sports Complex
See page 3 for details.

For more details on events, visit alumni.hvcc.edu or www.hvcc.edu/events.

Photographer Mary Ellen Mark
7 p.m. Thursday, April 27
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium
This lecture is made possible by the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation through the Stephen L. Hyatt Fine Arts Endowment and the college's Faculty Student Association.

Mark, a contributing photographer to The New Yorker, is widely recognized as one of the most respected and influential photographers of our time. She has published photo essays and portraits in publications including LIFE, The New York Times Magazine, Rolling Stone and Vanity Fair, and was voted “Most Influential Woman Photographer” in a recent poll of American Photo readers. For more about Mark’s work, visit www.maryellenmark.com.

Calling All Alumni
Hudson Valley Community College is looking for alumni interested in working with the college to revitalize its Alumni Association.

Volunteers will partner with the college to develop the Alumni Association’s mission and formal governing body structure. Once re-established, the association and its members will advise the college on ways it can better serve and engage its alumni, and identify how alumni can get involved with the campus community and current students.

Interested? The college plans to hold its first meeting in June 2006; to learn more, visit alumni.hvcc.edu and click on Volunteer Opportunities. Or call Aimee LaLiberte, director of alumni affairs, at (518) 629-8077, or send an e-mail to alumni@hvcc.edu.