50 Years of Growth and Change: Hudson Valley’s Transformation Continues...
Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

This is an exciting time for all Hudson Valley Community College alumni. This past year, the Alumni Association has undergone a wonderful transformation and has new energy directed at reconnecting with all alumni. There are nearly 64,000 of you, so we’d better get busy! Alumni are the foundation of the college, and it is vital that all of you feel an ongoing connection to Hudson Valley.

This year we have planned three alumni events: “No Reservations – An Evening with Anthony Bourdain,” which completely sold out earlier this spring; the 2nd annual Alumni Night with the Valley Cats; and Homecoming 2008.

Homecoming weekend this year will be, by far, the biggest undertaking by the Alumni Association—and hopefully the most successful. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you and your alumni friends to return to the campus, explore what’s new and have fun! As you will see in this issue of The Valley View, there are a lot of new things to explore on campus. I look forward to meeting all of you during this event.

All of these events would not be possible without the Association’s Executive Committee: Kesa (Kunz) Shea ’00, vice chairwoman; Ben Bayly ’99, treasurer; and Amy (Danieli) Monk ’00, secretary. The new Board of Directors is Kate Broom ’90, Mandy (Contois) Brown ’96, Susan (Bartholomew) Callahan ’92, Brian Cook ’79, Margaret Ewart ’97, Peter Laz ’04, Lou Rosamilia ’69, Peter Semenza ’84, Susan Smith ’03, Geri Swimm-Schlesinger ’78, and Jonathan Winnicki ’03.

The Association will continue to provide graduates with a forum to stay connected to the college and will offer each of us opportunities for career development, networking, socializing, mentoring, community involvement and philanthropy. I encourage all alumni to be involved in the life of the college and the rebirth of the Association. Let’s give those who follow in our footsteps the same great opportunities that we had. Please let us know how we can reach out to bring you home again to Hudson Valley Community College.

Best wishes,

Kathi (LaPosta) Carney ’04
Chairwoman
Hudson Valley Community College Alumni Association
carnekat@hvcc.edu

Reconnect with Old Friends! Connect with Hudson Valley Community College.

There is a way to connect with old friends from Hudson Valley. Contact the The Valley View and tell people what you’ve been doing; personal updates, marriages, children and professional accomplishments are welcome, even messages for old classmates who you haven’t seen in years. Email: alumni@hvcc.edu or call 518-629-8012.
**THREE MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ALUMNI PROFILES**

**Peter DeWitt ’93**

Poestenkill Elementary School Principal Peter DeWitt ’93 tells a story that many Hudson Valley Community College students can relate to. A struggling learner who had trouble in high school, DeWitt kicked around several colleges before finally ending up at Hudson Valley at age 21. At Hudson Valley, he found the self-confidence that continues to motivate and inspire him today. The once-struggling student turned principal has even added national lecturer and children’s book author to his resume.

DeWitt credits psychology professor Ron Mulson and the Learning Assistance Center’s Don Frament with encouraging and motivating him during his first semester. “Ron was my cross country coach and he encouraged me to visit the Learning Assistance Center. Within three weeks, I had my first ‘A.’ The success started to feed off itself,” he said.

Working in an East Greenbush afterschool program while at Hudson Valley cemented his belief that he wanted to make a career out of teaching young children. He completed a degree in elementary education at The College of Saint Rose and followed it up with a master’s from Marist College.

DeWitt has been at Poestenkill Elementary — his “dream job” — for two years and taught in the public schools of Poughkeepsie and Watervliet for 11 years before entering the administrative ranks. In 2005, he began speaking on the topic of struggling learners, and he will present at statewide education conferences in Hawaii, South Carolina and Nevada this year. Obviously, it’s a subject close to his heart. “Sometimes the perception is that struggling learners will remain that way for life. I try to present the challenges from their perspective, because I was one,” DeWitt said.

DeWitt also has found the time to complete two novels for young adults, Toaster Pond (DNA Press, May 2006) and Isabella and the Room of Lost Brooms (DNA Press, October 2007). A third book is in the works. He’s also worked with WNYT’s Elaine Houston on a weekly education segment and an education-themed blog.

For more information about Peter, go to www.toasterpond.com.

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**Joanne Dwyer ’87**

As director of food sourcing for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, Joanne Dwyer ’87 helps funnel more than 18 million pounds of food to the needy each year. It’s a job that takes organization, negotiating skills and a fair amount of multi-tasking.

Like many non-profit executives, Dwyer is called upon to fill several roles each day but, in part, that’s what makes her job so interesting. “It definitely is one of those positions where each day is different, with different challenges and responsibilities,” she said.

“I may be working on a fundraising event or reaching out to a broker or farmer who has a donation.”

Dwyer, a Marketing graduate from Hudson Valley, was already working in her family’s wholesale food business when she began attending classes back in the 1980s. Pre-dawn hours buying and selling produce at the Menands Market were followed by a day’s worth of classes up the hill at Hudson Valley.

After graduation, she stayed with the family business, but the hectic schedule led Dwyer to a new career path. “The opportunity… at the Food Bank was a great niche for me,” she said.

As director of food sourcing she helps the food bank take in and re-use hundreds of thousands of pounds of food each day. The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York is one of the largest food banks in upstate New York. It serves more than 1,000 charitable organizations within its coverage area.

Dwyer also is active in the local business community. Named one of the Business Review’s Forty Under 40 in 2005, she also served as chair of the Women’s Business Council of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2006.

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**Scott Beegle ’84**

In many ways, Dr. Scott Beegle has come full circle. A 1984 graduate from the college’s Math and Science program, the pulmonologist and critical care specialist now serves as one of two medical directors of the college’s Respiratory Care program.

Beegle came to Hudson Valley after high school but, admittedly, without a whole lot of direction.

His father-in-law, Dr. Cornelius V. Robbins, served the state university as president of SUNY Cobleskill and Genese Community College as well as associate chancellor for community colleges. Robbins strongly encouraged Beegle to attend Hudson Valley.

Twenty six years ago, Beegle said he could have just as easily seen himself following his father into the construction field after Hudson Valley, instead of pursuing the sciences and eventually a career in medicine.

After graduation, he continued his education at The College of Saint Rose where he majored in biology. Professors from Hudson Valley and Saint Rose convinced the Delmar native to think about medical school. A top score on the MCAT exam was enough to get him into Albany Medical College where he completed his residency in internal medicine.

Beegle was in private practice for several years but returned to the medical college to pursue a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine. He now directs that same fellowship and oversees a half dozen other physicians looking to specialize in the field.

“Becoming a member of the faculty at Albany Medical College was a choice. I really enjoy teaching and I like to think that we practice a higher level of medicine. Doctors and students here see a wide range of situations and problems,” he said. “As a tertiary care center we draw patients from a 100- or 150-mile radius. I guess in one way it’s like Hudson Valley Community College. You have a lot of different people coming from different backgrounds.”

Reconnecting with Hudson Valley 24 years after his graduation, Beegle now serves as co-medical director for the Respiratory Care program. He lectures and assesses student knowledge and performance in rotation with Dr. Thomas Smith, a physician who also is on the faculty at Albany Med. While on rotation in the intensive care unit at Albany Med, students follow Dr. Beegle’s direction but also make recommendations for respiratory care. He helps them gain confidence in communicating with physicians in addition to teaching them pulmonary medicine.

“There wasn’t a lot of experience with higher education in my family,” Beegle said. “I’m the first in my family to graduate from college, but my family always worked hard and they stressed that it was important to work hard at anything you do.”
A 21st Century Campus

Transformation During the Last Decade Reshapes Hudson Valley Community College

From the Joseph L. Bruno Stadium to the new Administration Building, the college has seen a decade-long transformation, with new buildings reshaping the center of campus and 30-year old buildings getting an “extreme makeover.” If you haven’t been on campus during the past several years, now is the time to plan a visit. Take in an exhibit at the college’s new Teaching Gallery; come to the Maureen Stapleton Theatre for a lecture or performance; or simply walk around the revitalized center campus, which includes the stately Dr. Frank J. Morgan Jr. Clock Tower.

With new buildings constructed in every decade of its existence, Hudson Valley has always been a campus in flux, expanding and changing to meet the growing needs of its students. As the 1960s dawned, a new college campus emerged on the border of Troy and North Greenbush with five buildings known simply by letter designations—A, B, C, D and E. Most students from that era also will mention a place called “G Building,” but that deserves a story of its own.

Dick Conklin ’61, who went on to work for IBM on the Saturn V rocket and the first IBM personal computer, remembers the transition from the original college building downtown to the new campus. “Our class had the dual distinction of being the last in the old building and the first to graduate on the new campus. There was a lot of anticipation among students and faculty about the move, I remember. When we moved to the new campus, it was very muddy and they were just finishing up the landscaping as the school year began,” he said. “We were lucky to get out of that old building. It looked like it was ready for the bulldozer.”

Through the next 30 years, the campus continued to expand – Brahan Hall (1965), Williams Hall (1967), the Marvin Library (1970), the new Siek Campus Center (1974) and Cogan Hall (1984). The 1990s brought two new structures—a massive field house and recreation complex (1991) and the Bulmer Telecommunications Center (1995) which cemented the college’s reputation as a technology leader.

“I was in F building for the Accounting program, which I believe is now Brahan Hall,” said Nancy Morris ’68. “There was a real family atmosphere in the Accounting program. All of the professors knew you and they worked with you.”

Kate Broom ’90, an individual studies major, recalls the campus center being a hub of activity during the late 1980s. That era also saw the townhouses adjacent to the campus filled with Hudson Valley students. As a competitive ice skater, she may have attended the college a year too early.

“I think they began building the rink the year after I graduated. I would have been over there every day,” she said.

Broom, a current member of the Alumni Association’s board of directors, said she looks forward to revisiting the campus. “I’ve been to a few meetings in the Bulmer building but I’d really like to get a tour of everything that’s new over the past few years,” she said.

Timeline of recent campus transformation

2001
The Viking Child Care Center, operated by the college’s Faculty Student Association, opens to provide care for more than 100 children aged six weeks to five years.

2001–2002
Guenther Hall, one of the original five buildings on campus, is completely overhauled to consolidate all student service departments. Now known as the Guenther Enrollment Services Center, the building houses the financial aid, registrar and bursars offices in a spacious student-friendly lobby.

2002
The Tri-City Valley Cats play their home opener at the Joseph L. Bruno Stadium. The stadium construction also includes a classroom building, which houses three classrooms and a lab space for the college’s Physical Education department.
As most alumni will attest, the college has always been a work in progress, with “work” being the operative word. Each expansion has served the academic programs of the college as well as the community at large. Over the past six years, however, the college has been clearly committed to two goals—revitalizing the center of campus and making the entire campus more pedestrian friendly.

Eric Mackey ’07, whose father Bob Mackey ’89 also attended Hudson Valley, witnessed the recent transformation of the campus first-hand while a student here, and while it may have been somewhat inconvenient he said he’s amazed at the finished product. “The new administration building looks amazing,” he said. “I think the contemporary style fits with the other changes they have made on campus.”

Gordon Zuckerman ’62, who has been actively involved in the college’s Foundation for several years, said the constantly evolving campus is just an indication that Hudson Valley continues to be a leader among two-year colleges.

“Like any business that has to constantly evaluate and update its product line, the changes on campus over the years show that Hudson Valley is really trying to stay on the cutting edge. In business or in education, especially the kind of technology-based education that the college offers, if you stand still you’re moving backwards,” he said. “The changes that have taken place over the years are always to the student’s benefit. Especially in a commuter campus, it’s important that we provide places where students feel comfortable. The more likely they are to stay on campus, the more likely they are to take advantage of the faculty, the library and the other services the college offers.”

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2005–2006
The 33-year-old Siek Campus Center undergoes a full interior and exterior renovation, including two new dining areas and a renovated lobby for the Maureen Stapleton Theatre.

2006
The college breaks ground on an administration and classroom building that will help form one corner of a new campus quad area. The building includes a new 2,000-square-foot Teaching Gallery.

2007
The former faculty parking lot located behind Guenther is removed to make way for a pedestrian walkway that connects Amstutz, Brahan and Marvin with a pedestrian friendly green space.
“You went to Hudson Valley, what was it like?”

Maybe you’ve heard the question at a summer barbecue or while watching your daughter’s soccer game. Each of us probably has a ready answer to why Hudson Valley has made a difference in our lives, but now the college is promoting a series of talking points that help shape the perception of the college within the community. The college’s four “Key Messages,” developed over the past year, serve as a way to frame the Hudson Valley Community College experience and the impact the college has on the community.

Consider the key messages below and think about how they relate to your experience at the college. Your personal examples can bring these alive and portray the college for what it is — a critical, life-changing institution of higher education.

Facts:
Nearly 100 of the college’s faculty and staff members have received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence, one of the highest honors awarded by the SUNY system.

Each year, Hudson Valley helps 12,000 students achieve their dream of higher education.

About 40 percent of our graduates continue their education at a four-year college or university.

Facts:
The college has transfer agreements with some of the most prestigious schools in the country, including RPI, the University at Albany, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, to name a few.

The college’s Health Sciences programs routinely exceed the state and national average pass rates for licensing exams.

Recent graduates have transferred to Brigham Young, Columbia and the University of Binghamton.

Facts:
The college has more than 64,000 alumni; a large majority (more than 80 percent) live and work in the Capital Region.

Annually, Hudson Valley Community College has a $360 million economic impact on the Capital Region, according to a survey completed by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission.

Facts:
Our alumni include leaders in virtually every field of endeavor including banking, government, medicine, construction and broadcasting.

The college has more than 64,000 alumni; a large majority (more than 80 percent) live and work in the Capital Region.

Annually, Hudson Valley Community College has a $360 million economic impact on the Capital Region, according to a survey completed by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission.

Facts:
Each year, the college’s Foundation disburses more than $200,000 in scholarship funding to students.

The largest growth area for the college is in credit programs offered to high school students and those offered online. More than 10,000 students have taken an online course offered through Hudson Valley and the college offers classes at nearly 30 high schools around the region.

The college has educated more than 300,000 students over its 53-year history.

We are urgently committed to the success of each student.

“We were there every step of the way that I remember. The people in the Human Services program, Jennifer Thompson and everyone in the Collegiate Academic Support Program — the courses were challenging but, if you needed it, someone was always there to help you.”

Shavina Richardson, Human Services ’07
A mother of three children, Shavina completed her Human Services degree last May and is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree at UAlbany.

We have the respect of other colleges, universities and of employers across the country for the excellence of our teaching and the readiness of our graduates.

“No one in high school ever told me that I could go to an Ivy League college, but I just graduated from Cornell. I applied to transfer there because one of my professors at Hudson Valley looked at my 3.93 average and questioned why I wasn’t considering colleges outside Albany. People at Hudson Valley are like that; genuinely caring about what you do with your life.”

Caitlin Degnan, Individual Studies ’04
Caitlin graduated from Cornell this past May.

We fundamentally strengthen the community we serve.

“It is an amazing feeling to know that someone believes in your ability. I came out of Hudson Valley Community College knowing that whatever I chose to do in the criminal justice field I could conquer if I really wanted it and strove for it.”

Andra Ackerman, Criminal Justice ’91
Andra, a graduate of the University of Buffalo School of Law, currently serves as the bureau chief of the Special Victims Unit for the Schenectady County District Attorney’s Office.

We deliver broad educational opportunity to all who are motivated to seek it.

“There’s no way I would have finished my degree without online courses. With three children and my job there’s no way I could come to campus and complete this. I’m so grateful to Hudson Valley that they offer this (online degree) option.”

Sue Jones, Individual Studies ’06
Sue graduated from Hudson Valley in 2006 after completing her entire Individual Studies degree online.
Men’s Basketball Team Completes Stellar 30-1 Season

It was a season of dominant performances and a single untimely loss. The 2007–2008 Hudson Valley men’s basketball team completed an historic season, registering 30 wins and falling just one victory shy of making it to the regional championship. Led by seniors Justin Gallo (Lansingburgh), Emanuel Mayben (Troy), Datwan Hemingway (CBA), Ryne Luce (Cohoes) and Derick Faragon (Schenectady), the Vikings ran through the regular season undefeated, with 29 straight victories. Head Coach Andre Cook, who captured Region III Coach of the Year honors, had his team primed for a run at the national championship and, as one would expect of a team that never tasted defeat, they held the number one spot on the NJCAA Division III poll for ten consecutive weeks during the season.

But perfection is a harsh taskmaster. Matching up against SUNY Cobleskill in the semi-finals of the Region III tourney, the Vikings fell, 86–79. It was the third meeting between the two and, unfortunately, the only loss of the season for the Vikings.

Cook and his team set a host of individual and team records and will likely be remembered as one of the best squads ever to wear the green and white of Hudson Valley Community College.

To view a video of the team in action, go to youtube.com/hvcc1953.

TEAM RECORDS
30 wins in one season
30 wins in a row

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Justin Gallo
Most Points in a Game: 40, on December 15, 2007 at Broome.
2nd on the all-time scoring list with 1148 points.

Indians win Region III tourney, fall in national title game

**Democrat & Chronicle**

Justin Gallo

Most Points in a Game: 40, on December 15, 2007 at Broome.
2nd on the all-time scoring list with 1148 points.

Go Vikings!
The Jason Irving Doeg ’02 Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of Jason Irving Doeg, a 2002 individual studies graduate. His mother, Sandra, established this scholarship after Jason’s death in 2005. This scholarship is awarded to a full-time, matriculated senior transferring to a four-year college or university or professional school. Preference is extended to students planning to major in English, journalism or creative writing at the transferring institution.

The Karen Swanick Scrivani ’94 Memorial Nursing Scholarship is named in memory of Karen Swanick Scrivani, a 1994 graduate of Hudson Valley’s nursing program and daughter of Bob Swanick, a long-time employee of the college’s admissions office. Karen was very proud to be a health care professional, and she worked as a nurse at many prestigious health care organizations across the country after graduating from the nursing program at Hudson Valley. Bob, his wife, Joyce, and their family felt it would be fitting to memorialize Karen by establishing an endowed scholarship at the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation. The scholarship supports an incoming student of the college’s nursing program.

The sisters of Tau Beta Phi, a Hudson Valley sorority chartered in the early 1960s, have established a scholarship at the college to assist a second-year Hudson Valley student demonstrating a strong interest in pursuing a career in health. Continuing a 40-year tradition of service to their community, the Sisters of Tau Beta Phi raised the funds to start the scholarship at their annual reunion weekend held at the home of Sister Corlis F. Carroll ’71, in Lake Luzerne, NY.

**2008 Foundation Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Spring Scholarship Reception</td>
<td>McDonough Sports Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Distinguished Service Awards deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Retiree Recognition &amp; Reunion Luncheon (Keepers of the Flame &amp; President’s Office)</td>
<td>BTC Meeting Rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>President’s Circle Reception</td>
<td>The Country Club of Troy</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Alumni Valley Cats Game</td>
<td>Joseph L. Bruno Stadium</td>
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<td>July 21</td>
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<td>Golf Classic</td>
<td>The Country Club of Troy</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22-24</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Class of ’58 50th Reunion</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Society Dinner</td>
<td>Wolferts Roost County Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>2008 Distinguished Service Awards Reception</td>
<td>Franklin Terrace Ballroom</td>
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<td>October 10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Homecoming 2008</td>
<td>Hudson Valley Community College Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Celebration of Excellence Gala - Allied Health</td>
<td>McDonough Sports Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Fall Scholarship Reception</td>
<td>McDonough Sports Complex</td>
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Sneak preview of our next issue: The Valley View Fall 2008 issue will focus on the growing number of scholarship opportunities for students, many being endowed by alumni and alumni groups.

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Visit our YouTube page at youtube.com/hvcc1953 to see these commercials and more.