The Fine Art of an Art Education
Hudson Valley Art Students Get Tools to Succeed

Catching Up
with President Drew Matonak

Landmark Enhancements Expand Opportunities
New Articulation Agreements, Nanotech Offerings and a Major Tech Grant
Since joining Hudson Valley Community College in April as its sixth president, Dr. Andrew J. “Drew” Matonak has been keeping quite busy, meeting with faculty, staff and students, local elected officials, business leaders and other college presidents, and moving his family into its new home.

A baseball standout when he was in college, Matonak even threw out the first pitch — just nicking the outside corner of home plate — at a Tri-City ValleyCats game in August.

He sat down for an interview with The Valley View last month.

What attracted you to the college?
I had heard from friends that Hudson Valley was a true gem of a college, so I decided to check it out prior to applying for the position. I observed the wonderful faculty in the classes and I spoke with many students about their experiences. The people here are truly committed to transforming lives; that is the kind of college environment I was looking for.

What is a typical day like for you?
There really isn’t a typical day — that is what I love about the job. I prefer not to spend a lot of time in the office. My day is filled with meetings or other events that I need to attend; the variety is exciting to me.

You encourage students, faculty and staff to call you “Drew,” rather than President Matonak. Why?
When I was a community college student, it impressed me so much when the president asked us to call him “Tom.” It made me feel more comfortable with him and I want students to be comfortable with me.

Whom have you met?
During the Spring semester, I met with students, faculty and staff. After graduation, I began to focus my attention externally. I have met with all of our legislators, school superintendents, college presidents, chamber of commerce officials and area business leaders. It was a busy summer.

In July, you spoke to the Rensselaer County Legislature before they adopted the college’s operating budget for 2005-06. What was that like?
This was a new experience for me. Prior to the presentation, I met with the Legislature’s Education and Finance committees. It is nice to know that we have such tremendous support. The presentation itself? It was easy to talk about all of the great things that our faculty and staff do, and the impact that they have on students’ lives.

What are your impressions of the college so far?
In many ways, we are a victim of our own success. We provide a tremendous educational product for our students and an array of services that are exceptional. We are recognized throughout the region for the great things that our faculty and staff do to serve our students. The variety of programs and modes of instruction we provide has resulted in stretching our physical and staff resources. This poses some unique challenges for us, and this year, we will face several issues, including enrollment management, facilities and parking. But I am confident that, working together, we can address these issues and make Hudson Valley an even better institution.

What have you enjoyed the most?
Graduation — meeting our graduates and their families was a real treat.

What do you like best about the Capital Region?
I love the energy. This community is very progressive and has a vision for where it wants to go, and I think that Hudson Valley can play a key role in continuing the development of the Capital Region.
Seven-Year-Old Fine Arts Program — an “Untapped Goldmine” — Gains Reputation and Enrollment

As Melanie Materson ’02 put it: “The secret is getting out.”

A short seven years after it first began accepting students, Hudson Valley’s Fine Arts program is garnering a top-shelf reputation and sending graduates to leading four-year art schools, including the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Savannah College of Art and Design.

Why the positive reputation and enrollment that has doubled since the program’s inception? When some recent alumni explain, their comments are peppered with phrases like “an untapped goldmine” and “I was way ahead of other students when I transferred.”

But more than anything, Hudson Valley graduates mention the academic rigor of the Fine Arts program, and how well it prepared them for future study.

“This is where I got all the tools I need to be an artist.”

— Zach Ziemann ’01

Entering the program, “I thought I could draw, and paint, and make fine quality prints but I found out very soon that I was wrong,” said Zach Ziemann ’01, who recently completed his bachelor’s degree in fine arts at Purchase College and is currently living and painting in Brooklyn.

In hindsight, he marvels at the progress he made in his two years at Hudson Valley. “This is where I got all the tools I need to be an artist.”

His “glory days” at Hudson Valley came during a college-sponsored summer drawing course in Italy. Fifteen students and two instructors spent five weeks touring Rome, Florence and elsewhere in an intensive study abroad course.

They didn’t have to consult a textbook to study the Italian Renaissance. Caravaggio was right in front of them. For Ziemann, the experience was life-changing.

“When classes resumed in the fall, no one in my class was the same,” he recalled. “We had all experienced this thing in Italy, and we had changed. The world was bigger.”

Materson was a 40-something simply “looking for a sheepskin that would allow me to be reasonably employed” when she entered Hudson Valley.

She is now pursuing her master’s degree in fine arts at Vermont’s Johnson State College, after graduating with honors this past spring from The College of Saint Rose. Materson plans to work as an artist and teach art to people recovering from drug abuse or trauma.

“Everything you need to succeed, except your own concerted effort, is right at Hudson Valley,” she said.

Added Fine Arts Department Chairperson Dottie Reynolds: “The quality of our faculty and the rigor of our courses have resulted in a well-respected program. Extensive studio time also is a key strength of our program — it gives our students the time to immerse themselves in their work and explore their creativity.”

The strength of any fine arts program also is evidenced in the company it keeps, and here, Hudson Valley has excelled. In addition to agreements with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Savannah College of Art and Design, the college has secured transfer agreements with SUNY Plattsburgh, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, The College of Saint Rose, and Montserrat College of Art in Massachusetts in the past three years. Agreements with Purchase College and The Art Institute of Boston are pending.

“(Hudson Valley) students come to us with a level of sophistication which points clearly to the shared concern of both our schools: namely our commitment to excellence in education in art and design,” said Chris Bratton, dean of undergraduate studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

— Eric Bryant

Best of Show

Hudson Valley Community College was well represented at the 2005 Best of SUNY Student Art Exhibition, with work from five students chosen for inclusion in the show:

- Susan Cortesi of Latham, “The Pig” Oil.
- Jack Shaeffer of Albany, “Road” Gelatin Silver Print.
- Millette Smith of Voorheesville, “Still Life #4” Oil.
- April Zboray of Albany, “Final Still Life” Charcoal.

The Teaching Gallery

The Teaching Gallery features exhibits by professional artists and the college’s Fine Arts faculty and students.

It is a “living laboratory” that allows students to learn from faculty, peers and gifted regional and national artists. Visit www.hvcc.edu/teachinggallery to learn more.

Fall/Winter Exhibit Schedule

Now through Nov. 5: Meredith Allen – Photographs
Nov. 17 through Jan. 19: Christian Carson – Paintings
Jan. 26 through March 2: Susan Graham – Photographs
Since 1998, Patricia Serowick '73 has been the owner of Bayly’n Tables, Chairs and Tent Rentals, which is located in Schenectady.

Kenneth B. Colloton '74 recently accepted the position of senior vice president and director of government banking with Citizens Bank.

John Scarchilli '74 was named chairman of the Northeast Health Foundation’s Board of Directors. Scarchilli has served on the board since 1997. He also received the Seton Health Corporate Angel award for support given to the Seton Health Pediatrics Center, which cares for more than 9,000 children and their families annually.

James R. Barbieri '75 received the Otto V. Guenther Career Achievement Award from the Hudson Valley Community College Alumni Association. Named for the college’s first president, this award is given to alumni who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in their career. Barbieri, a Business Administration graduate, is president and chief executive officer of Holbrook Cooperative Bank in Holbrook, Mass. He has spent more than 30 years in the banking industry, and has been actively involved in his community, particularly with the Boy Scouts of America; he currently serves on the Northeast region’s executive board of the organization.

William F. Fagan ’73 received the 1953 Award for Distinguished Service to Hudson Valley Community College by an Alumnus at the college’s annual Alumni Association luncheon. Fagan, a Liberal Arts and Sciences graduate, is president of William J. Fagan & Sons, Inc., an insurance company in Troy. He joined the board of the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation in 1994, and has served as president or chairman since 1997. Under his leadership, the Foundation has experienced tremendous growth and in 2003-04, philanthropic support to the college and Foundation exceeded $1 million. He also is a member of a variety of community organizations and a former member of the Troy City Council and Rensselaer County Legislature.

In 1997, Butter transferred to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he received a bachelor’s degree in management information systems.

James P. Sano ’76 received the Hudson Valley Community College Humanitarian Service Award, which is given to an alumnus who has exercised leadership through volunteer service, participation in public service and/or personal sacrifice to improve the lives of others. For more than 20 years, Sano has been a teacher and coach in the Albany public school system. He also serves on the Albany Common Council as the council member for the 9th Ward.

Thomas McHugh ’77 currently resides in St. Charles, Mo., where he works as a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Washington University. After completing his nursing degree at Hudson Valley, McHugh studied nurse anesthesia at the Berkshire Medical Center.

Ann Powers Turner ’69 lives in Rensmen and is employed as superintendent of schools for the Remsen Central School District. After graduating from Hudson Valley, she went on to earn her bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and certificate of advanced study in educational administration from Syracuse University.

1960s

Jerry A. David ’62 retired last year after working for 40 years as a civil engineer. He and his wife, Diane, are currently building their dream home in Hendersonville, N.C.

Ann Powers Turner ’69 lives in Kensington and is employed as superintendent of schools for the Rensmen Central School District. After graduating from Hudson Valley, she went on to earn her bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and certificate of advanced study in educational administration from Syracuse University.

1970s

After graduating from Hudson Valley, Antonio Calafano ’71 attended University of New England, where he received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 1974. His professional career includes 32 years of service with New York State, and he has served as chief executive officer of three corporations, including Tendercare Child Centers Inc., where he has worked for 18 years.

1980s

James Catuccio ’80 is currently employed with Schenectady County District Attorney Robert M. Carney’s office as a confidential investigator.

Glen Hanlon ’80 currently resides in Florida, where he works for Ocala Lincoln Mercury as a technician.

Michael Pozzuto ’83 is the president of Critical Communications Inc., and resides in Massachusetts with his wife, Christine.

James Sullivan ’80 joined NBT Bank as vice president and relationship manager of the government banking department.

Laura Cassidy ’83 was named the director of membership sales for the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2005.

John Denio ’83 lives in Rhode Island, where he is employed with Bryant University as an assistant dean and director of residence life.
Charles Waterman ’83 is president and owner of Closets by Design, located in Malvern, Pa.

Diane Conroy-LaCivita ’85 was named as one of The Capital District Business Review’s “40 Under Forty” for 2005. Conroy-LaCivita is deputy clerk for the town of Colonie.

Thomas Amell ’87 was named senior vice president and relationship manager/director for business banking for Citizens Bank. In his new position, Amell will oversee the startup, or conversion, and management of business banking centers covering Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and the Hudson Valley.

Joseph Bucciero ’87 was named vice president and relationship manager for commercial lending at HSBC Bank USA in Albany.

Joanne Dwyer ’87 was honored as one of The Capital District Business Review’s “40 Under Forty” for 2005. Dwyer is the associate director of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

Joshua Galarneau ’87 is currently employed as a senior production manager at Amsterdam Printing and Litho, where he has worked since January 2002.

Since 1991, Joseph Pennisi ’87 has been a senior software engineering manager employed with Lenovo International, an IBM corporation located in North Carolina.

Daniel Edmans ’88 works as a field applications engineer for PicoLight, a company located in Colorado.

Carol Hynes-Buckley ’89 works for Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments (PKS) as a financial advisor. She also is a member of the Galway Lake Association and serves on Galway’s Board of Assessment Review.

Karen Asher ’89 works for Key Bank as the Northeast region commercial banking portfolio administration manager/vice president.

Eric Willson ’89 was recently named president of The Michaels Group, a home-building firm based in Malta.

1990s
John Daniels ’90 was honored as one of The Capital District Business Review’s “40 Under Forty” for 2005. Daniels is president and chief executive officer of L&P Media, a Troy-based company that provides browser-based development, advertising, marketing, video production and graphic design services.

Since 2001, Lynn Wilson ’91 has been employed as a financial systems analyst with Reckitt Bencher, located in Parsippany, N.J.

Michael Walker ’92 is a lead poisoning program coordinator for the Albany County Health Department.

Dominick Burke ’94 relocated to Columbia, Md., in August 2002, when he received a promotion. Currently, Burke is assigned to the FBI’s Intelligence Directorate where he manages the security program for the Language Services Section. Burke is married to another Hudson Valley graduate, Lisa Garibaldi Burke ’99; the couple has two children, 8-year-old Kayla and 2-year-old Joshua.

Brent Kosoc ’95 was named project executive at BBL Construction Services in Albany. In his new position, Kosoc oversees a group of project managers and superintendents in the field that specialize in commercial, multi-family and hospitality construction.

Albany Broadcasting Company promoted Patrick Ryan ’95 to marketing consultant for WLFW/WAJZ. Ryan, who started with WYJB in 1993, rejoined the company in 2003 as vice president for marketing after working for a Georgia broadcaster.

Peter Mackrell ’97 is currently employed with Novellus Systems as a field service engineer. He lives in Milford, Pa., with his wife, Kristi.

Tremenia Oliver ’99 is employed as an administrative assistant with the W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center in Albany.

Kenneth Segreto ’99 lives in Burlington, Vt., and is employed as a pharmacist at Brooks Pharmacy. He received his doctor of pharmacy degree from Albany College of Pharmacy in 2003.

2000s
Vanessa Colon ’03 was named regional recruiter for Employee Relations Associates.

Paul Knapp ’03 is currently pursuing his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering technology from the State University of New York Institute of Technology, and expects to graduate in May 2006. Knapp also is pursuing a career as an electrical engineer with Con Edison, a power company in New York City.

Erin Baxter ’04 is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in English literature at Marist College.

Joshua Couts ’04 recently accepted a new position with his current employer, Silhouette Optical, as a product service technician.

Deaths
Stanley P. Wierzbowski ’55
Charles A. Sano, Sr. ’58
May O. Weed ’67
Margaret Grace Boland ’69
Margaret T. Pike ’69
William Whan, Jr. ’69
Thomas Peyton Brown, III ’71
Gary J. Dominick ’71
Rev. Thomas Dominic Stott ’72
William T. Mahoney ’73
Anthony R. Elia ’79
Albert G. Metcalfe, Jr. ’79
Kathleen M. (Leonard) Stadtländer ’84
Ross Yates Alexander ’87
Ruth A. Madeiros ’88
Brenda Endres-Dame ’95
Jack Falvo III ’05

Note: News of Alumni Engagements and Marriages has been moved online. Visit alumni.hvcc.edu for the latest news.
Hudson Valley Community College has signed landmark articulation agreements with Excelsior College that will allow students enrolled in business and technology programs to earn up to three years of a four-year degree at Hudson Valley and then transfer seamlessly to Excelsior to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Eight agreements pertain to programs in Hudson Valley's School of Business, and one applies to a program in the School of Engineering and Industrial Technologies.

The agreements also allow students who take the bulk of their coursework online the ability to continue that mode of study, rather than transferring to a college that offers only traditional, in-class instruction.

"Many of our online students juggle work, families and school," said Dr. Carolyn Curtis, vice president for academic affairs. "This is a perfect partnership because it gives those students the ability to pursue their four-year degree in the same convenient way."

Hudson Valley now offers a Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology program that is designed to meet the needs of businesses — such as IBM, Evident Technologies in Troy, and the proposed Tokyo Electron facility in Albany — in New York's Tech Valley.

The first class of students will graduate with associate degrees in applied science in 2007.

The college collaborated with the University at Albany and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to develop the program, formally known as Electrical Technology: Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology. Students will receive a combination of classroom education and hands-on instruction, which will be taught in the clean room labs at UAlbany's School of NanoSciences and NanoEngineering.

"This new program will not only expand opportunities for current students and future high school graduates, but also will provide men and women who are currently working with the opportunity to upgrade their skills and train for a new career," Department Chair P. Philip White said.

A $1.825 million federal grant — the largest competitive grant secured in the college's history — will allow Hudson Valley to enhance instructional technology and laboratory facilities. The award, from the U.S. Department of Education's "Strengthening Institutions" program, will provide:

$873,000 for instructional technology upgrades in 52 classrooms on campus.

$525,000 for a Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology Lab for the new Electrical Technology: Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology program.

$263,000 for the creation of a Digital Language Lab, a computer-assisted learning environment that will allow the Foreign Language and English as a Second Language programs to use the Internet in the application of coursework. The lab will accommodate 24 students, but others in remote locations will be able to access all of the lab's resources via the Internet.

$164,000 for a stand-alone computer networking lab that will allow the college to offer new areas of study, including Networking, Server Administration, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, within its Computer Information Systems program.

The grant will provide the college with with $365,000 annually over a five-year period that began Oct. 1, 2005.

Seven faculty and staff members from Hudson Valley Community College were named recipients of the prestigious State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence for 2005.

The award, which recognizes exceptional contributions to the university by dedicated professionals, has been given to 88 faculty and staff members since its inception in 1972. This year's recipients are: Associate Professor Sandra Galligan of the Nursing Department; Associate Professor Donald Heckelman of the Engineering Science Department; Capital District Educational Opportunity Center Associate Director Sherri Mackey; Director of Athletics Drew Marrochello; Professor Carol McCarthy, faculty liaison to the Center for Effective Teaching; Assistant Professor Maryanne Pepe of the Human Services Department; and Associate Professor Carol Wilber of the EOC.
Deep Roots at the College Lead to a Commitment to Its Strong Future

An active member of his church and someone who has given much of his life to community service, Jim Walsh ’61 has strong convictions about charitable giving.

“At some time in life, it hits you like a ton of bricks that you owe something for what you’ve received, and what you’ve been given,” he explained. “It’s just not right to take and not give back.”

Hudson Valley Community College has benefited from Walsh’s philanthropic philosophy. He is one of the first alumni to become a member of the Heritage Society, which recognizes individuals who have made generous gifts to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation through bequests, trusts, and other life income gifts.

“I knew I’d do this as soon as I saw the announcement of the opportunity for investment in the college,” Walsh said.

It’s his way of paying dividends on the investment the college made in him. One of six children in a family that had little money available for higher education, Walsh admits he had little sense of direction when he found his way to the college and enrolled in the Construction Technology program.

“It was just by luck that I chose that program from the few listed then in a brochure I was given, but I strongly believe that without that degree from Hudson Valley, I could never have landed my job as an area manager for Niagara Mohawk,” he reflected.

Walsh began working for Niagara Mohawk as a meter reader, advanced to draftsman and then to management; he retired from the company in 1994.

His courses at Hudson Valley gave him the edge he needed. “I had learned the basics of construction at the college, so I had a good understanding of the building trades and of surveying, estimating, and various design methodologies. That course offered many different avenues I could have taken.”

His education and work experience landed him a new job in retirement: in 2004, he was appointed Troy’s deputy mayor by a fellow alumnus, Troy Mayor Harry Tuntunjian ’89.

“The city has underground utilities and departments for planning/engineering, and billing/customer service, so it was very similar to what I dealt with at Niagara Mohawk, sort of a natural fit,” Walsh explained.

It wasn’t Walsh’s first foray into public service. He was twice elected to the Rensselaer County Board of Supervisors, and later to the Rensselaer County Legislature. He also is former chairman of the Rensselaer County Republican Party, and served as a New York State commissioner of elections.

And like so many other alumni, Walsh isn’t the only person in his family to have a connection to the college: his two daughters, Lyn Walsh ’86 and Erika Walsh ’93, are Hudson Valley alumnae; his two sons, Scott and Timothy, both attended the college; and one of his brothers, Ed, is a graduate of Veterans’ Vocational School, which was the predecessor of the college. Another older brother, Tony, recently retired from Hudson Valley’s faculty.

“My family roots go back to the birth of this college,” Walsh said proudly.

— Judith White

For more information about planned giving and the Heritage Society, contact Marvin LeRoy at (518) 629-8007 or foundation@hvcc.edu.
2005 Homecoming Football Game
1 p.m. Saturday, October 15, 2005
Alfred State College Pioneers vs. Hudson Valley Vikings

The History of Murder and Forensic Science
1 p.m. Thursday, October 20
Bulmer Telecommunications Center
Dr. Michael Baden, renowned forensic pathologist, will discuss his extensive experience investigating murders using state-of-the-art forensic tools.

Dental Hygiene Reunion
6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 29, 2005
Siek Campus Center Dining Hall

Parking Lot Nation Meets the Long Emergency
Noon and 1 p.m., Tuesday, November 1
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium
James H. Kunstler will discuss the coming global energy predicament and its implications for how we live in the United States – and the suburbs.

Veena Chandra plays Sitar and Tabla
11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

Fall Scholarship Reception
2 p.m. Monday, December 5
Bulmer Telecommunications Center

Alumni Night at the Music Hall
A performance by legendary Flamenco guitarist Paco Pena, hailed by The New York Times as “a virtuoso, capable of dazzling an audience beyond the frets of mortal man.”
8 p.m. Friday, January 27, 2006
Troy Savings Bank Music Hall

Distinguished Service Awards Luncheon
Noon, Friday, April 7, 2006
McDonough Sports Complex

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