The Valley

Returning the Favor
Frank Padula teaches at Hudson Valley to reach students “like me”

Marc Makes His Mark
NJCAA Offensive Player of the Year, Running Back Emmanuel Marc

Calling All Alumni!
Association President Wants You

Chemistry Teacher and Cancer Researcher Frank Padula

Hudson Valley Community College
DIRECTIONS FOR LIFE
Dear Hudson Valley Alumnus,

As Hudson Valley Community College continues its tradition of providing young adults, returning students and professionals with an impressive array of academic programs, I am reminded of the meaningful impact that Hudson Valley Community College has had on my own personal life and professional career.

The Alumni Association for Hudson Valley Community College provides myself and other graduates with a forum to stay connected to the college and offers each of us opportunities for career development, networking, social events, mentoring, community involvement and, of course, philanthropy.

As we head into the future, the Alumni Association will take on a new direction. This course will help Hudson Valley continue to play a significant role in the lives of those who turn to this college to be educated — while building upon the strength in numbers that we should and could enjoy. To do so, we will "open the door" to all of our alumni, just a bit further, with the hope of encouraging more of them to get involved to support the future of our college.

As alumni, we are a part of the Hudson Valley family. Families need to stick together and support each other — so we are calling all alumni to get involved. How can the Alumni Association serve you? One of our goals is to enhance our Web site. Visit us at www.hvcc.edu/alumni and let us know what you'd like to see in the future — just click on the "share your thoughts" link, or send your comments via e-mail to alumni@hvcc.edu.

In addition, we hope you'll use the association to stay connected with your alma mater and to toot your own horn. Alumni news will be published in the "Class Notes" section of every issue of The Valley View. We'd love to hear about your new job, promotion, an award, wedding or the birth of a child — any accomplishments you wish to share. Your stories will provide current and future students a sense of the endless opportunities a Hudson Valley education can bring.

As one of more than 57,000 graduates of this great college, I am hopeful that you will share your time or resources with the Alumni Association to help the college build upon 50 years of academic excellence for all those who follow in our footsteps.

Sincerely,

Peter Semenza ’84
Alumni Association President
College was the last thing on 18-year-old Frank Padula's mind.

Street racing souped up cars, working, partying: those were the things that mattered to him in January of '77, until his girlfriend (Janet Dahlem '80) at the time encouraged him to try Hudson Valley Community College on for size.

“She took me through Brahan Hall on a Sunday and said, ‘See, there's nothing scary about this,’” recalled Padula, a native of Colonie.

Scary, no. But the fit — at first — was about as comfortable as an itchy wool sweater on a sweltering day in July.

He stuck with it, however, thanks to efforts of several teachers who saw potential beyond the ducktail hairstyle.

Today, after earning everything from two associate's degrees from Hudson Valley to a Ph.D., he teaches at his first alma mater because he wants to help students “like me.”

“Kids who have other things to do, and maybe are just taking a class to find out where they fit in this life,” Padula explained.

And in doing so, it allows him to honor and respect that first group of teachers — including former chemistry professor James LaGatta '67, now acting vice president for administration at the college, mathematics professor John Murray, economics professor Fred Kakumba and English teacher Maureen Hood — who made a difference in his life.

“What I do reflects off my teachers,” he said. “I believe you have to be faithful to their decision to have faith in me.”

It was LaGatta in particular who made the biggest difference, and the reason why chemistry became Padula's chosen field.

“He made it fun, drilling the chemistry over and over again until we understood it, relating it to the real world with laughter in the classroom,” Padula explained.

The proverbial light bulb went off.

Padula received his first Hudson Valley degree, an associate's in liberal arts, in 1979, and then returned to get an associate's degree in math and science, graduating in 1983. Amongst all that, he also served as a grunt in the Marine Corps.

He pursued chemistry at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees by 1984. After graduation, he taught, worked as a chemist and ran the family business, the Pizza Nook in Colonie.

He began teaching at Hudson Valley in 1991, and decided to pursue his Ph.D. six years later because he wanted to improve his teaching credentials.

While a chemist, he worked in Kansas, helping farmers solve agricultural and environmental problems they were having with their crops and herds. The work was rewarding — so he enrolled at Kansas State University to pursue his Ph.D. in grain science, with a cereal chemistry option.

He earned his doctorate in 2000, and the research he did to earn the degree showed the cancer-fighting properties of wheat and quinoa (pronounced “keen wa”) cultivars. Now, he conducts agricultural biotechnology research at the same Amstuz Hall benches where he teaches — and his curiosity for chemistry was first nurtured.

Padula works in partnership with the Kansas Wheat Commission to do the research, which he hopes will result in the widespread promotion of products made from certain types of wheat grains as “nutraceuticals” — foods that ward off disease.

“It's fun,” said Padula of his research. “You get to help cure people.”

His students will assist with the research as the project expands and Padula receives more wheat and quinoa cultivars to test. His work also benefits current and future students because Padula donates equipment to the college, and plans to donate any monies for overhead costs and his labor from grants, to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation.

He also uses his work to convey the fun of chemistry: he wants to teach the way his first teachers taught him. Padula hopes other alumni will follow his lead, and give back to the institution that he believes has given so many, so much.

“I give thanks for much of my success ... to my first chemistry teachers — James LaGatta at Hudson Valley and Gerald Kokoszka at (Plattsburgh), as they were exemplars from the get-go of the fun of science,” Padula said.

“If I become half as good as they are, I'd be happy.”
4 class notes

1955
Since retiring from San Diego Gas & Electric, Jack Glasheen has volunteered with an organization that provides support to disabled individuals, particularly in the area of assistive technology.

1959
R. Brian McKenna was hired as a construction field representative at the Albany office of Syracuse-based RobsonWoese Consulting Engineers Inc.

1962
Gordon Zuckerman was elected president-elect of the New York State Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and re-elected fire commissioner of Niskayuna Fire District #2.

1963
After 34 years of employment, Charles A. Ducar has retired as the manager of real estate from the New York State Electric and Gas Corporation.

1968
Hudson Valley Community College President John Buono retired from the college and plans to spend more time with his family.

1971
Harvey O. Eaton is the supervisor of buildings, grounds and transportation at the Beaver River Central Schools in Beaver Falls, NY.

1972
After 30 years of service, Arthur Felt retired from the United States Postal Service.

1973
Retired police officer John Mahoney Jr. was elected to the Troy City Council in November 2003.

1974
In October, Kenneth B. Colloton was promoted from director of government banking to co-president of FleetBoston Financial’s Capital District and Hudson Valley operations.

1975

1976
Bob Tomaso has been employed as a sales representative specializing in health, life, and disability coverage for individuals, families and small businesses with Mutual of Omaha.

1977
Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid company, has named William E. Flynn as director of government relations.

1978
David J. Holle has been appointed business development officer and sales manager of the Latham branch of Evergreen Bank.

1980
Mark A. Corbo received the “Outstanding Field Case History” for his paper titled “Vibration and Stability of 3000 HP Titanium Construction Chemical Process Blower” at the International Symposium on Stability Control of Rotating Machinery in December 2002.

1982
Edward J. Rytell recently joined Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital as manager of its Department of Radiology.

1984
Andrew DiNovo was promoted to northeast area vice president of sales for US Unwired, a PCS affiliate of Sprint.

Maretta Smith is the proud author of “Enter Reflections and Why” and works as a nurse and chaplain at Trident Hospital in South Carolina.

1986
In Los Angeles, California, Sonya Peacock Nakagawa is a music educator at the Center for Early Childhood Development. Sonya was married in April 2003 to Dwight Nakagawa.

1987
David M. Mysliwiec CPA, CFP was awarded the Personal Financial Specialist credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ Center for Personal Financial Planning. This credential has been awarded to only 3,400 CPAs nationally.

1988
Mario Sestito has joined Paul Financial Group LLC of Clifton Park as a long-term care specialist.

1989
Karen Marie Asher received her MBA from The Sage Colleges in August 2002. Karen is vice president of portfolio monitoring at KeyBank in Albany.

1991
Maryann Reese teaches high school English in Rhode Island. She is currently attending Providence College and is a member of the National Council of Teachers in English, American Federation of Teachers, and AmeriCorps.

Consulting Engineers hired Michael C. Whalen as program manager serving telecommunications clients in its Albany office.

1993
Robert S. Briody was promoted to operations manager at the Materials Characterization Laboratory in Scotia. He graduated with departmental honors from Union College in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering.

Rosemary Campbell Miller is the owner and instructor of the Campbell School of Irish Dance in Latham, Hoosick Falls and Saratoga. She married Michael Miller in 2001 and plans to continue her education at SUNY Albany.

Ernie J. Plumley has joined SEFCU as a branch manager.

Sharon Holbrook Ryan returned to Hudson Valley Community College as the interactive technology support technician in the Center for Effective Teaching.

1994
Patrick D. Lennon received a promotion from MLB Industries, Inc. from accounting manager to corporate controller. Patrick has been employed with MLB since June 2000.

1995
Daniel Abbott works for Vital Sign and Graphics Company as a laborer. He also received his certification from Hallmark Institute of Photography and has started his own business, DCA Photography.

Debra Jean Lashwa became a national certified activity director and is the director of activities and volunteer services at the Eddy Heritage House in Troy.

Patricia A. Northrup joined Bassett Health Care as a member of the Division of Cardiac Surgery. Patricia also works for Cardiovations, Ethicon, Inc. as a preceptor performing endoscopic vein and radial artery harvesting.

1996
Mark E. Davies has joined Charter One Bank as an assistant branch manager.
Tracey Swanson graduated cum laude from Albany Law School and passed the New York State Bar exam in 2003.

1997
William G. LeQue, Jr. was promoted to senior computer programmer/analyst for the disaster recovery efforts within the Department of Health’s Office of Medicaid Management.

Catherine Costa Tedesco completed her graduate studies at The College of St. Rose and gave birth to a son on January 23, 2004. She is married to Gaetano M. Tedesco ’97.

1998
Megan Arnold received her master’s degree in literacy at The Sage Colleges and is a teacher at Cohoes Middle School.

Corrine Davies also graduated from The Sage Colleges with a master’s degree in special education.

1997
Michael Guzzo is employed with the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna as a reactor servicing designer.

1999
Paragon Prime Funding, a Latham commercial mortgage brokerage and consulting firm, promoted Danielle Tashlein to senior loan administrator.

2000
Laura Church was hired as an assistant structural engineer in the transportation division at Clough, Harbour & Associates LLP.

2001
Anthony Fahrenkopf graduated from the New York State Police Academy in September 2003 and is currently working as a New York State Trooper.

Tina Murphy has accepted a position with the civil/engineering team at Laberge Engineering & Consulting Ltd.

Steven A. Subcleft won the International Natural Bodybuilding Federation Men’s Amateur Light Heavyweight World Championship title. Steve has been competing as an amateur all-natural bodybuilder since 1996.

2003
Virtual Flow Interactive Media of Saratoga Springs hired Fred Hosley as a programmer. As a programmer, Hosley develops custom Web applications ranging from e-commerce to content management.

Deaths
Geoffrey Burke ’56
William W. Crotty ’57
Joseph Bradley ’57
John Kozubal ’57
Clayton La Pointe ’57
John Meola ’60
Roger Young ’60
James E. Simmons, Jr. ’60
David Barkevich ’62
William J. Lisosky ’63
Jerome F. Murray ’67
Harold Lee Olby ’69
Barbara Kazukenus ’70
Gary Senick ’70
John T. Gilchrist ’72
James Hannell ’72
John Murphy ’73
Mona Ilene Shapiro ’73
Edward J. Slosek ’73
Thomas E. Cavers ’74
Mark Edward DeMars ’74
Nancy Crosby Navom ’74
Francis A. Landrigan ’76
Joseph Edward Owens ’76
James “Vinnie” Consuelo ’78
Judy Ann Remillard ’78
Rhoda L. Dygert ’79
Pamela Murray ’79
Elaine M. Fasoldt ’81
Mary Ann Ciolfi ’82
Michael Wharton ’82
Joseph Diehsner ’83
Diane Bayly ’86
John Opalka ’88
Charles Gardner ’92
Joan M. Beaulieu ’93
Linda A. King Bianchini ’93
Hector L. Rodriguez ’93
Sean Downey ’94
Mark Galloway ’94
Dennis Banker ’95
Brian Luz ’97
Steven C. Kelly, Jr. ’03
Keith Capano ’92 to Allison Rogers
Jason Timothy Hanley ’92 to Jill Ann Butterworth
Rev. Aaron Fitch ’93 to Stephanie Young
Heath Johnson ’95 to Linda Marilyn Blom
Rachel Ellen Yee ’96 to David Edward Hayes, Jr.
Lara Pascavage ’98 to Dr. Michael Brehm
Samuel Thomas Armao ’97 to Julie Corinne Hanson
George Maxfield, Jr. ’97 to Jessica Anne Crowther
Kimberly Mylott ’97 to Matthew Cudemo
Carrie Elizabeth Rodd ’97 to Joseph A. Lucarelli
David A. Longo ’98 to Joseph M. Lucarelli
Daniel James Terry ’98 to Kandi Sue Corey
Jennifer L. Vartigian ’98 to Brian W. Lucarelli ’00
Nicole Girard ’99 to Franklin Rapp III ’99
Suzanne McCarthy ’99 to Nicholas Wendolski
Brian T. Pomeroy ’99 to Magdalena M. Baclawski
Christopher R. Szala ’99 to Kristen M. Montgomery
Kelly Marie Callahan ’00 to Michael J. Sbuttono Jr.
Julie Demencurio ’00 to Charles MacFawn

Marriages
David Shear ’71 to Holly Randall
Ann M. Pinkans ’86 to Timothy E. Paro
James Blake ’88 to Michele Mihaly
Timothy Palmer ’88 to Melinda Templeton
Rose Alayne Donlon ’89 to Steven Attardo
Gerald Shaw ’90 to Melissa Hughto
William Smith ’90 to Angela Pause
Scott Bidwell ’91 to Bridget Baker
Gregor Fowler ’91 to Joanne Herlihy
John Filarecki ’91 to Deana Guzy
Patrick Griffen ’91 to Rachel Salisbury
Jeffrey Campbell ’92 to Jamie Bond

Joshua Michael Keegan ’00 to Kristin Marie Krappman
Jaclyn T. Mazzone ’00 to William R. Reagan
Joanna L. Furbuck ’01 to Daniel F. Dillon
Sabrina Kohler ’01 to Ken Girard
Jesse A. Murray ’01 to Danielle R. Rochford
Kevin W. Ratta ’03 to Susan L. Vine

Engagements
Pamela Cardel ’92 to Keven Reichert
Jeffrey Ronald Brown ’97 to Christine Marie Baldwin
Victor Spairana ’97 to Bobbie Jo Kratky
Andrew Burke ’98 to Jennifer Cervoni
Jennifer L. Fox ’01 to Gregory G. Bobersky ’00
Tracey Lynn Lawson ’02 to Albert Miller III

What’s new with you?
We would love to hear from you and share your news with other Hudson Valley Community College alumni in future editions of The Valley View. You can submit your class note online at www hvcc edu/alumni/news_notes, or via mail to: Aimee A. LaLiberte, director of alumni affairs and annual giving, Hudson Valley Community College Foundation, 80 Vandenburg Avenue, Troy, NY 12180.

The deadline for the Fall 2004 issue is June 13, 2004.

Hudson Valley alumni, staff, friends and supporters now have the opportunity to have their commitment to the college set in stone.

The Foundation is selling engraved bricks that will be used to construct a patio and walkway designed to encircle the east wing of the Guenther Enrollment Services Center on the college’s campus. The project is scheduled to be dedicated in the spring of 2005.

For more information about how to purchase a brick for you or your business or to honor a colleague, friend, favorite professor or loved one, contact the college’s Foundation at (518) 629-8012 or online at www hvcc edu/50/brick.
Willie A. Hammett ’66, the college’s vice president for student services for more than two decades, has retired.

Hammett began his career at Hudson Valley in 1971.

Louis B. Coplin II, who has been at Hudson Valley since 1987, is serving as Hammett’s interim replacement.

A scholarship has been created to recognize Hammett for his dedicated service to Hudson Valley. The Willie A. Hammett Scholarship will be awarded each spring to an outstanding student who has made a significant contribution to student services at the college.

If you would like to contribute to this scholarship, call (518) 629-8012 or send your gift to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation, 80 Vandenburgh Ave., Troy, NY 12180.

Marco J. Silvestri, Ph.D., is serving as college president on an interim basis until a permanent president is selected by the college’s Board of Trustees.

Working in partnership with the board, a Presidential Search Advisory Committee is searching for appropriate candidates to lead Hudson Valley; a permanent president is expected to be appointed by the board in December 2004.

For more information about the search, visit www.hvcc.edu/presidentialsearch.

The college has signed four direct transfer agreements that allow Fine Arts students to transfer to top art schools in the country – The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Savannah College of Art and Design, The Art Institute of Boston and Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, Mass.

Hudson Valley saw record enrollment – 11,741 students – for the Fall 2003 semester.

Individual Studies student Samantha Henrikson of Selkirk was one of only 173 college students in the country – and the first Hudson Valley student ever – to receive a $5,000 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

Henrikson, 19, is using the scholarship to study communications at Bond University on Australia’s Gold Coast during the Spring 2004 semester.

A graduate of Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School, she is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and has a 4.0 grade point average. Henrikson plans to continue her education at a four-year college after graduating in May.

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Two new deans lead the college’s four schools.

Vivian Tortorici is the new dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Health Sciences, and Ann Marie Murray, Ph.D., is the new dean of the School of Business and the School of Engineering and Industrial Technologies.

Both women have more than 20 years’ experience at Hudson Valley.

Hudson Valley Running Back Emmanuel Marc was named the NJCAA Offensive Player of the Year in 2003 after leading the NJCAA with 203.8 yards per game. Marc finished his two-year career at Hudson Valley with a school-record 3,273 yards and 30 touchdowns. Marc recently signed a letter of intent to play at Utah State.

Want to know more about what’s happening on campus? Visit www.hvcc.edu and sign up to receive Hudson Valley’s monthly e-mail newsletter – you might even win one of two $300 learning certificates.
A Canandaigua woman has decided to honor her brother with a major planned gift to Hudson Valley, recognizing his loyalty to both her and to the college.

Mary Karpiak Foster has established an irrevocable charitable remainder annuity trust naming the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation as one of the beneficiaries. Upon Mrs. Foster’s death, the Foundation is slated to receive a portion of the trust’s proceeds; the current size of her gift is estimated at $75,000.

Two-thirds of the gift to the college will be used to name the International Language Laboratory after her brother, Professor Emeritus Walter D. Karpiak; one-third will be used to establish the Walter D. Karpiak Endowed Fund for Language Studies to support innovative programming and professional development.

“This is a significant and meaningful philanthropic gift. It is a wonderful way for Mrs. Foster to honor her brother’s years at Hudson Valley and recognize his special talents as a teacher and the mark he made on this institution and so many students’ lives,” said Sarah M. Boggess, the college’s vice president for institutional advancement.

Mary and Walter Karpiak grew up in Watervliet and Sand Lake, two of 14 children.

Their lives took different directions, with Mary spending most of her adulthood in the Rochester area. But she has always felt a special bond with her brother Walt. “I’ll never forget the day that he came out to our farm in Averill Park and he noticed I wasn’t happy,” she said. “I wanted to go to college ... but I had just received a letter of rejection from SUNY Albany – there weren’t enough seats. Walt said ‘You will go to Russell Sage.’ He paid my tuition the first year. If he hadn’t done that, my whole life would have been different. I appreciated it and never forgot it.”

After graduating from Russell Sage, she became a teacher at Ravena High School.

After Mrs. Foster was assigned to teach the community about tuberculosis, she became interested in pursuing a career in public health. She earned two master’s degrees – one in education from SUNY Albany, and one in public health from Columbia University. She moved to Rochester in 1949 to become the first public health educator in the Rochester Health Bureau.

One of her many projects was to set up a food handlers’ program for restaurant workers, and it was through that project she met her future husband, Marine Major William Powell Foster, who was manager of the Hotel Rochester. They married in 1952.

Mary Foster continued her career in public health, and Bill Foster worked as a lawyer. They both retired in 1972. Her husband died in 1992.

Mrs. Foster, 82, has remained close to her brother. “Walt has always been very special to me,” she said. “He gave me help when I needed it.”

Walter D. Karpiak joined Hudson Valley in 1960 as an assistant professor. During his tenure at the college, he was promoted first to associate professor and later to full professor, and also served as a part-time registrar. He retired from the college in 1978.

Now 89, Mr. Karpiak resides in Colonie Manor on Watervliet-Shaker Road in Latham.

“He was very, very loyal to Hudson Valley and he was a pioneer there,” Mrs. Foster said. “I figured the best way to honor him was to recognize him at Hudson Valley Community College, where he had a very successful and satisfying career in education.”

Mary Karpiak Foster Joins Foundation’s Heritage Society

There are a variety of ways to contribute to Hudson Valley Community College:

• Call (518) 629-8077 to make a pledge or contribute using a Visa or MasterCard.

• Send your gift (check or money order made payable to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation) to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation, 80 Vandenburgh Avenue, Troy, NY 12180.

All gifts made through the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please call the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation staff at (518) 629-8012 to discuss the following methods of giving:

• Planned Giving
• Gifts in Kind
• Memorials and Honorary Donations
• Corporate Sponsorship
• Scholarships

• If you’re a Hudson Valley or New York State employee, you can make a gift to Hudson Valley Community College via payroll deduction.

For more information, contact your agency’s payroll officer or call the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation at (518) 629-8077.

The Heritage Society recognizes our generous alumni and friends who have made commitments vital to the continuation and expansion of Foundation programs through planned gifts.

John O. Amstuz
Anonymous Friend
Charles F. Bessey
Philip Brown
James J. Fitzgibbons
Robert F. Foley
Muriel T. Gageway
Otto V. Guenther
Stephen L. Hyatt
Mary Karpiak Foster
Wynn Kintz
Marguerite H. LaPan
John J. Sweeney Jr.
Dr. Robert S. Menchel ’55
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Nagi
Cecilia M. Perkins
Dr. Robert S. Menchel ’55
Cecilia M. Perkins
John J. Sweeney Jr.
Distinguished Alumni Award

The recipient of the college's 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award will be chosen in March, and will be honored at the Distinguished Alumni Award Luncheon, which is scheduled for noon on Thursday, May 27, in the Bulmer Telecommunications Center.

This year's recipient will be profiled in the Fall 2004 issue of The Valley View, but if you’d like to find out more about the 2004 honoree before then, visit www.hvcc.edu/alumni/distinguished.

For more information about the luncheon, including sponsorship opportunities, or to attend, please contact the Foundation at (518) 629-8012.

From left to right, Anthony Galea ’58; his wife, Claudell Dwyer Galea ’57; and Hudson Valley President John L. Buono ’68 were three of 50 outstanding alumni honored at an alumni brunch, one of the many events held in October 2003 to mark the college’s 50th anniversary.