



Fall 2011
Volume 1 Issue 2

HCC Connections

A newsletter for
Housatonic Community College
Alumni
Editor - Magaly Cajigas

Congratulations to the HCC Class of 2011!

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On the evening of May 26, 2011, during the 44th Commencement for Housatonic Community College, President Gliniecki addressed a crowd of graduating students patiently awaiting their time to walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. A total of 556 students became part of the Class of 2011 - the largest graduating class by far for Housatonic. The Webster Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport, CT was filled with family, friends and loved ones who cheered the graduates on during the entire ceremony. HCC faculty and graduates listened as Commencement speaker, Judge John Turner, spoke of his journey and encouraged the graduates to continue forward on their educational path even when others may say "you can't." The evening was brought to a close with alumnus, Judge Eddie Rodriguez, Jr. (Class of 1970). Judge Rodriguez was the recipient of the Board of Trustees Merit Award given by the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut Community Technical Colleges. Judge Rodriguez also motivated the students to reach their goals and

Please see *Class of 2011* on pg 2

Farewell...



Maureen Dowdle, Director of Institutional Advancement and Liaison to the Housatonic Community College Foundation Board of Directors, is saying farewell. After 14 years of service to Housatonic Community College she will be leaving a legacy of phenomenal fundraising work that has funded many College program initiatives and scholarships.

We would like to acknowledge Maureen Dowdle for her dedication and passion towards the mission of the Housatonic Community College Foundation. We would also like to thank her for her leadership during these past years where so much has been created, learned, and achieved. Thank you Maureen for being not only a great boss, but also a phenomenal mentor.

From your HCC Foundation Staff: Magaly Cajigas and Cindy Cominsky

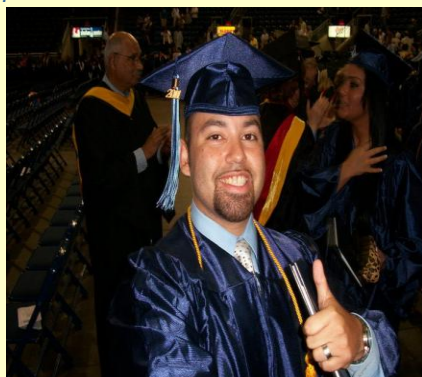
Pictured above Maureen Dowdle.
Photo by Harold Shapiro Photography

Class of 2011 continued...

continue forward no matter what the obstacles they encounter in these difficult times. During the distribution of diplomas, graduates were congratulated off-stage by David Peck, HCC Alumni Hall of Fame inductee 2010 and HCC Alumni Advisory Council member. He very proudly handed out alumni gifts to all the graduates. After the commencement ceremony all graduates were invited back to HCC for a reception in Lafayette Hall. There they had the opportunity to take pictures with friends, family, faculty and staff. Thank you to all of our alumni that attended graduation to cheer the Class of 2011. We look forward to seeing all of the alumni back for the Class of 2012 graduation ceremony.

*"I had the best time!
Thank you for inviting me
to be part of this special
night – I am looking
forward to next year."*

*David Peck,
HCC Class of 1979
Alumni Advisory Council
Member*



Housatonic Community College Class of 2011

*Pictured above: Luis Rueda,
HCC Foundation Scholarship
Recipient and former
Treasurer for the
ALAS Club
(Association of Latin American
Students)*



Save the Date – Alumni Hall of Fame Gala Event 2011

The Housatonic Community College Foundation, which works in conjunction with the Alumni Relations, created a scholarship fundraising event to acknowledge alumni and induct them into a newly created Alumni Hall of Fame. The Gala is the primary scholarship fundraising event for the Foundation and has garnered much support during these past years.

Call for Nominations were sent out to staff, faculty and to the community-at-large. From this request, three new HCC Alumni have been selected to enter the HCC Alumni Hall of Fame 2011. They are Patricia “Patty” J. Foley, Fernando G. Rosa, and Nancy L. Sidoti. This year’s guest speaker will be actor and writer “Chazz” Palminteri, best known for his performances in *The Usual Suspects*, *Mulholland Falls*, and his Academy Award nominated role for “Best Supporting Actor” in Woody Allen’s smash hit, *Bullets Over Broadway*.

Alumni Hall of Fame 2011

Save the Date

November 19, 2011

6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Location:

Housatonic Community College

Events Center

Beacon Hall

Tickets: \$250 per person

For more information or to get on the mailing list for a formal invitation call

Magaly Cajigas at 203-332-5038

SAVE THE DATE!

Housatonic Community College Foundation
presents the third annual

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME GALA

Saturday, November 19, 2011

6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

This black-tie event will include the induction of three distinguished alumni into the Alumni Hall of Fame, followed by dinner, dancing and a special presentation by actor/writer and Academy Award Nominee Chazz Palminteri.

2011 Distinguished Alumni

Patricia “Patty” J. Foley

Owner/CPA, Patricia J. Foley, CPA

Fernando G. Rosa

Deputy Director & Chief Lending Officer, HEDCO, Inc.

Nancy L. Sidoti

Retired Dean of University College (Sacred Heart University)

Housatonic Community College – Beacon Hall Event Center

Tickets: \$250 per person

Proceeds from the event benefit the HCCF Scholarship Fund.



GALA
GUEST SPEAKER
**CHAZZ
PALMINTERI**

Actor/Writer
(*A Bronx Tale*)
and
Academy Award
Nominee
(*Bullets Over Broadway*)

*Thank you to our Gala
Sponsors for 2011*

Antinozzi Associates

Bannow Larson Foundation

Bigelow Tea

The Bank of Fairfield

BlumShapiro

Virginia & Joel Giuffré

*President Anita Gliniecki &
Robert Dombroski*

Carl & Barbara Johnson

People’s United Bank

*Interested in becoming a
sponsor – Call*

Maureen Dowdle at

203-332-5078

Alumni Spotlight...

For this Alumni spotlight we wanted to highlight past and present alumni. The four individuals featured in this section have written in “their own words” how Housatonic Community College changed their lives...

Crystal Carbone, Class of 2006



Pictured above soon to be Mr. and Mrs. Enrique Acevedo

Housatonic Community College has given me a broad field of knowledge that has helped me achieve many goals, including my career as a Dental Hygienist. While attending Housatonic, I was surrounded by people with a variety of backgrounds and interests. This helped me improve my communication and people skills. The teachers and staff members always went above and beyond to help me follow the right path to success. Overall, I am very thankful that I chose Housatonic Community College. I am currently working as a Dental Hygienist in Shelton, CT. I educate patients' everyday and do my best to keep them in optimal health. My career can be challenging at times, but I could not imagine doing anything else. I just purchased my first home in Milford, CT and am getting married in September. Housatonic helped give me the foundation and education I needed to become as successful as I am today.

Dalton Miller, Class of 2009



From my humble beginnings and rural community in Jamaica I grew up with Christian beliefs, respect for family and the goal to achieve educational success. With this goal in mind, I pursued technical courses in order to fulfill my dream of becoming an engineer. I came to Housatonic in 2006 to start my Pre-Engineering Science degree. The faculty at HCC was very professional and always rendered assistance in every capacity. Along my educational journey I ran into financial troubles, but through the HCC Foundation office was given the assistance needed to graduate. I graduated with a 3.0 GPA and was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. After graduation in 2009, I landed an internship with Unger Enterprise as an Engineering Assistant. My next break came when I was awarded a contract to work as a Radiation Protection Nuclear employee at the DC Cook Nuclear Plant in Michigan. Through this work I was encouraged to continue my education and get my Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. I am currently employed as a Co-Op Process Engineer with Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, CT and also attending the University of New Haven. I owe my success to the great people I worked with in the Admissions Office, thank you and also to the HCC Foundation for assisting me during my time of need.



Alumni Spotlight continued...

Brandon T. Bisceglia, Class of 2011



I came to HCC because I realized that I needed more than a high school diploma, if I wanted to live in an intellectually challenging world. I worked my way through, paying for as many classes as I could afford each semester with a full-time night job. Along the way I discovered I had an affinity for journalism, and decided that I wanted to be a science writer. I worked in many capacities - including as Editor-in-Chief - on HCC's student-run newspaper, *Horizons*. I stuck with the paper long after I had exhausted any college credit I could earn from it. At the same time, I took on writing projects with several outside venues.

In college, I met professors and students (too many to name) who provided invaluable guidance and friendship. I'm indebted especially to Steve Mark, who heads the journalism program, for being my closest confidant and most sincere critic. Every writer should have someone like that.

By the time I graduated in the spring of 2011 with an Associates in Journalism, I had received myriad recognitions, including the Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Coca-Cola Scholarship; the All-Connecticut Academic Team Award; the Outstanding Service as President of the Chi Rho Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Award; the Swain Award for Excellence in English & Literature; an award for Outstanding Service to *Horizons*, the Student Newspaper of HCC; The *CT Post* Publishing Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Journalism; the Academic Dean's Prize; the Dale Ward Endowed Scholarship; and the distinction of Housatonic Scholar. I've since transferred to the University of New Haven to continue my studies. I'm confident entering a new stage in my education and career, thanks to my experience at HCC. The only other thing I see in my near future is more writing. It's a good thing I love it so much.

David Peck, Class of 1979



*Pictured above: David and Lynn Peck
Photo by Harold Shapiro Photography*

I came to HCC a few years after high school when I decided I needed some direction in my life. I went to work right after high school since I was not sure what I wanted to do. HCC was handy and affordable and it also allowed me to continue working while I went to classes. While a student at HCC I would have to say that John Conway and Ed Keane were my most helpful mentors. John was also a retired police officer who inspired me to pursue a career in law enforcement. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I entered HCC, but after receiving advice from John, Ed and several other police officers that were in my classes, I knew that a law enforcement career was what I wanted.

I was able to secure a job with the Fairfield Police Department while in my last semester at HCC. The education that I received from HCC prepared me for the police academy and it gave me a great foundation for my 32 year law enforcement career that included rising to the rank of Chief of Police,

completing my baccalaureate degree at the University of New Haven and attending the FBI National Academy. Being selected as one of the 2010 Housatonic Community College Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees was a real treat and honor. The experience encouraged me to be more involved in HCC Alumni activities and I was even able to represent the HCC Alumni at the 2010 graduation ceremony at the Webster Arena at Harbor Yard as a proud HCC graduate.

Housatonic Community College Alumni Advisory Council...

On March 25, 2011 President Anita Gliniecki met with our past Alumni Hall of Fame inductees to ask this special group if they would assist Housatonic Community College with its outreach efforts to HCC alumni. The group that gathered for the morning's breakfast meeting consisted of Alumni Hall of Fame inductees Janet Janczewski, Frances Newby, David J. Peck, and Mary Ann Vlahac. HCC Foundation members present were Maureen Dowdle, Barbara P. Johnson, and Diane Nunn. The group discussed ways to garner alumni support and outreach to alumni through the use of social media and mailings.

This group has been asked to consider themselves as part of the *Housatonic Community College Alumni Advisory Council*. Thank you to all of our members of this Council - 2009/2010 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees: Charlene Labate-Santoro, John L. Evanich, Jr., Mary Ann Vlahac, Janet Janczewski, Frances Newby, and David J. Peck.

Spread the word! Through Facebook and LinkedIn

The HCC Alumni Association would like to reconnect with as many alumni as possible. Help the Association grow by sending this newsletter to your friends, family members or colleagues that graduated from Housatonic Community College. You can also send us a "friend request" on Facebook and LinkedIn to our Housatonic Community College Alumni Association group page. Stay on top of events that take place at the College and visit the campus! Alumni are welcome to enjoy events that are hosted on campus including the Housatonic Museum of Art exhibits that take place throughout the year. For more information on events or activities on campus log onto: www.hcc.commnet.edu.

Housatonic Community College Foundation

The Office of Alumni Relations is under the auspices of The Housatonic Community College Foundation (*HCC Foundation*). The Foundation is charged with overseeing private grant funding, donations, scholarship administration, alumni affairs, and the Housatonic Museum of Art. The HCC Foundation provides financial assistance to the College and its students beyond the fundamentals provided by the State of Connecticut. For more information feel free to call our office.

Maureen Dowdle - Director, Institutional Advancement (203.332.5078)

Cindy Cominsky - Scholarship Administrator (203.332.5293)

Magaly Cajigas - Institutional Advancement Associate (203.332.5038)

Robbin Zella - Director, Housatonic Museum of Art (203.332.5052)

Housatonic Community College
Institutional Advancement Office
Attn: Alumni Affairs
900 Lafayette Boulevard
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Phone:
203-332-5038

Fax:
203-332-5280

E-mail:
mcajigas@hcc.commnet.edu

Alumni Association Mission Statement:

The Alumni Association is a division of the HCC Foundation. College Alumni play an important role for the College in many ways. Alumni offer new and innovative ideas and can serve as an avenue of communication for students and the community. Many alumni serve their alma mater by becoming volunteers as student mentors, student recruiters or as college supporters in their community to give something in return to the College that helped shaped their lives.