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HCC Connections

A newsletter for
Housatonic Community College
Alumni

Editor - Magaly Cajigas

New Beginnings for the HCC Alumni Association

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In the Fall of 2009, Housatonic Community College President Anita Gliniecki decided that the HCC Alumni needed to be invited back to the halls of Housatonic. With this goal in mind she decided to integrate Alumni Affairs into the Department of Institutional Advancement under the direction of Maureen Dowdle and Magaly Cajigas. This assignment will work hand in hand with the HCC Foundation's mission which involves bringing alumni back in the next couple of years to celebrate the College's 50th anniversary. There is a designated Alumni Board Committee which has worked this past year with Magaly Cajigas to organize special events and begin preparation to reach out to HCC Alumni via emails, letters and social mediums such as Facebook. The current Board Committee is comprised of Co-Chairs - Diane Nunn, Mary Jane Paris; members Linda Bayusik and Mary Ann Vlahac. Our first introduction to the College community was with our pre-graduation

Please see *New Beginnings* on pg 2

A special thank you...

From Magaly Cajigas

Linda Bayusik paved the way for the Alumni Affairs arena during the time she worked for the HCC Outreach Services Department. Linda worked to re-connect with many alumni and as a graduate of Housatonic herself she continues to relay that message to everyone she meets. In her current role as Director of Student Activities, she still displays the same energy and enthusiasm in regards to keeping in touch with alumni by informing current students of the alumni program. Her efforts and on-going relationships will help the Housatonic Community College Alumni Association to grow. Thank you Linda!

If you would like to find out about student activities and events being hosted at HCC, please log on to www.hcc.commnet.edu and click on the Student Services and Activities section.

Pictured on the left Linda Bayusik- photo by Harold Shapiro Photography



As President Gliniecki spoke to the graduating class of 2010, she ended her speech with "I trust wonderful things are ahead for you. Make a difference. Keep the College posted on your accomplishments. You are now officially a member of the HCC Alumni Association."

New Beginnings continued...

reception that was held in the Burt Chernow Housatonic Museum of Art Gallery on May 27, 2010. The reception provided an opportunity for alumni to meet and greet our Alumni Committee members as well as attend the 2010 Housatonic Community College graduation ceremony. Also, this affair gave the Committee the opportunity to update alumni on the Alumni Association's goals and the status of the College.

We look forward to inviting all of the alumni back on May 26, 2011 to attend the Class of 2011 Graduation Ceremony.



Pictured in photo above: HCC Alumni guests – Alex and Arian Pagan accompanied by Linda Bayusik – Director of Student Activities

Housatonic Community College Class of 2010



If you would like to attend this year's HCC Commencement ceremony, please contact

Magaly Cajigas

*Institutional Advancement Associate
at 203-332-5038 or via email
mcajigas@hcc.commnet.edu*

Alumni Weekend

By Magaly Cajigas

The Housatonic Community College Foundation, which works in conjunction with the Alumni Relations, created a scholarship fundraising event which would acknowledge alumni and induct them into a newly created Hall of Fame. The event which was kicked off in November of 2009 is entitled "Housatonic Community College Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame Gala." The Gala is the primary scholarship fundraising event for the Foundation and has garnered much support during its first and second year.

Call for nominations are sent out to staff, faculty and to the community for nominations of those Housatonic alumni that have achieved success in their chosen fields and also for their outstanding community service. Three individuals are selected for induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame. First year recipients were - John Evanich, Charlene Santoro and Mary Ann Vlahac. Special guest speaker that year was LeVar Burton - who is well known for his role in the miniseries *Roots* and also the host of the children series *Reading Rainbow*. Second year of the event the guest speaker was Joan Lunden, best known for her time as host of the morning show *Good Morning America*. The event continued with the recognition of the three new inductees: Janet L. Janczewski, Frances M. Newby, and David J. Peck.



Photo on the left: Alumni 2010 Inductees with President Gliniecki and Joan Lunden

Photo on the right: Alumni 2009 Inductees with President Gliniecki and LeVar Burton

Photos by Harold Shapiro Photography

"My belief system, determination and education allowed me to reach my personal and career goals – obtaining a job at the executive level, breaking my family's cycle of welfare dependence, and moving from public housing to home ownership." stated by Frances M. Newby
 Alumni Hall of Fame 2010

Call for Nominations

If you would like to nominate an HCC Alum for the 2011 Alumni Hall of Fame Award, contact Magaly Cajigas to request a Nomination form – 203-332-5038 or via email mcajigas@hcc.commnet.edu
 Deadline for nomination submission is May 1, 2011

Looking for contributing writers!

If you would like to contribute an article to the next Connections Newsletter contact

Magaly Cajigas

203-332-5038 or via email mcajigas@hcc.commnet.edu

Alumni Weekend continued...

The Alumni Relations Committee that worked on this year's Gala also worked simultaneously on creating and organizing an Alumni Reunion Dance. The Reunion took place the night before the Gala event in Lafayette Hall at Housatonic Community College. The group in attendance was a mix of alumni, retired and current faculty/staff. Our Alumni Relations Committee co-chairs Diane Nunn and Mary Jane Paris welcomed the crowd and President Gliniecki spoke of the importance of bringing back alumni to Housatonic to ask for all of them to be "advocates" of the College and to join us in the coming years for Housatonic Community College's 50th anniversary. The crowd enjoyed the evening's emcee, Ron Abbe, Professor Emeritus of Art and an individual with a wealth of knowledge about Housatonic's history. The Reunion crowd also enjoyed music by the group "The Essentials" and cocktails along with an enjoyable array of hors d'oeuvres.



Pictured above: HCC Alumni Committee Co-Chairs
From left to right: Diane Nunn & Mary Jane Paris



Pictured above: HCC event volunteers

Top row: Magaly Cajigas, Alex Pagan, Cindy Cominsky, & Carmen Medina. Front row: Teresa Oravetz, Arian Pagan, & Verniece Still.



Pictured above: Treasure Chest Raffle and Second floor view of the HCC Alumni Reunion Dance

Photos by Harold Shapiro Photography

To view slide show presentations on both events go to: <http://hccfoundation.slide.com>



Alumni Weekend continued...

A special thank you to all of our sponsors for the Alumni Reunion Dance and Alumni Hall of Fame Gala - - without their support none of these events would be possible. Thank you to our wine sponsor for the Reunion Dance - Barnum Wine & Spirits of Stratford; Gala Event sponsors - The Bannow Larson Foundation, Bigelow Tea Company, Mark & Theresa Tillinger, People's United Bank, Antinozzi Associates, Carlson Construction Company, Connecticut Audubon Society, Kate Z. Driscoll-Leone, Virginia & Joel Giuffr , Barbara & Carl Johnson, Lacey Manufacturing LLC , Shipman & Goodwin LLP and Amity Wines.

One event has passed and now plans for organizing the 2011 Alumni Hall of Fame Gala begins... more information to come. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive an invitation to the next Gala event, please contact Magaly Cajigas at 203-332-5038 or email at mcajigas@hcc.commnet.edu.

Spread the word!

We are looking to reconnect with as many alumni as possible. Help the HCC Alumni 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 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)

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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.