

connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2017 VOL. XLII NO. 2



Charter Oak Holds 2017 Commencement Ceremony on June 4th – Theme was “Getting Involved”

A full auditorium of family and friends resided over the graduating members of the Class of 2017 as students received degrees during Charter Oak State College's 43rd commencement ceremony held on Sunday, June 4, in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. More than 600 students graduated with over 200 graduates in attendance, representing 35 states and 5 countries. A live webcast of the ceremony was hosted on CharterOak.edu for graduates and families unable to attend in person.

Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski addressed the graduates. This year's commencement speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient was

Dr. Shyamala Raman, PhD. The student speaker was Valerie D'Apice.

In his remarks, President Klonoski congratulated the graduates for their achievements and arriving at this moment along a non-traditional path. He noted that their efforts to finish their degrees honed the skills of discipline, organization, multi-tasking, and collaboration. "The skills you developed during your time studying at Charter Oak have armed you to be advocates and leaders in your local schools, town councils, city offices, and to advocate your vision among your peers and associates at your places of employment." He encouraged the graduates to not be shy about navigating the universe of



Dr. Shyamala Raman, PhD addresses the graduates

competing information and to enter the fray of advocacy and leadership.

Klonoski noted that their maturity offers a perspective honed by time and space, and also now by education. He ended by offering a big thank you to all those in attendance who supported the grads along their journey.

The student speaker was Valerie D'Apice of Meriden, CT. D'Apice completed a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with a concentration in Sociology. She congratulated her peers for their determination and shared her own 40 year long journey to this day. With little support at home, she began attending Middlesex Community College in Middletown, CT directly after high school. Five years later, married and still not finished with college, she and her husband moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico where both attended UNM. A job-related move back to Connecticut, welcoming her two daughters, and

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THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



I am writing this surrounded by the pleasant memories of our 43rd graduation. This was the tenth time I had the honor of addressing our graduates, and I never get tired of all the happy families. Next year we will add our first group of Master's degree graduates, and that will be another wonderful milestone for the College. As an online college, we rarely get to "see" our students, so our

annual graduation ceremony is extra special for all of us. Our students can't wait to meet their advisors and their favorite faculty. Simultaneously, the staff gets re-charged from their deep satisfaction at seeing the students accomplish their degrees.

Higher education is evolving as it works its way through a variety of competing pressures. These pressures include demographic shifts (e.g. CT is graduating 2% fewer high school students each year), reductions in state support for higher education (down 25% over the past decade), tuition ceilings, increased scrutiny by the US Department of Education around employment success for graduates, and changing rules for financial aid. These pressures require new approaches to credentialing, instruction, and enrollment management. Even institutional business models are evolving.

For Charter Oak these pressures are moving us in a few interesting directions. The most student-relevant is the new Bachelor's and Master's programs that we are producing. Provost Adams has started the Board of Regents program approval process to move Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Public Safety Administration from concentrations to majors. That approval will be completed in the fall for spring 2018. Second, she is sending concept papers through spring/summer on informatics and on health care administration at

the Master's level. Over the next 12 months, we will be moving these programs forward, seeking the necessary permissions, and building online curriculum for each. In addition, the Board of Regents is requesting that we create an RN to BSN program to assist Associate's degree nurses to achieve their Bachelor's degree.

As you know, our mission is adult degree completion. That means we are flexible around transfer credit, prior learning, workplace training for credit, and testing. That flexibility is attracting the notice of a variety of Online Program Management companies who are working with us to design marketing strategies that bring adult students through our program. These companies understand that our policies and approaches can speed adults to their degree and lower the total cost of that degree. For Charter Oak this means that we have to prepare ourselves for dramatic growth by developing policies and approaches that work at scale. This is interesting work, but it requires that we evolve in ways and at rates that are not immediately comfortable. Welcome to the 21st century.

But one thing that does not change is what I saw at this year's graduation. Both the 200 graduates in attendance, and their extended families, were celebrating the achievement of a degree that will make a real difference for the graduate and his/her family. That is what we are designed to produce, that accomplishment is what each of us is attempting to support, and all our internal changes serve that outcome.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer. If you have a moment, feel free to drop me a line and let us know how you are doing (eklonoski@charteroak.edu).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Klonoski".

Ed Klonoski, President

"2017 Commencement: Getting Involved" continued from pg. 1

aging credits slowed the process to a halt. When both of her daughters and her husband were diagnosed with chronic illnesses, caregiving became her main priority for many years. After accidentally discovering a large pay discrepancy at work due simply to her lack of a degree, D'Apice decided to take charge of her future and apply those 118 old credits at Charter Oak. Her degree in Sociology will be put to good use as she continues to lead workshops for mothers of special

needs children at the New England Joni & Friends Retreat and speak to couples who deal with the unique challenges of living with chronic illness at seminars in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Commencement speaker and Honorary Doctorate recipient Dr. Shyamala Raman spoke of three C's – Celebration, Connections, and Change. She encouraged the new graduates to celebrate this winding

journey and feel mighty proud of themselves today, make good connections and networks for life-long learning and friendships, and to consciously adapt to change. She challenged the graduates to "make-meaning" in the face of today's accelerated globalization and technology. She told the graduates "Change is the new constant and adjusting and understanding these changes will provide us all with

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Alumni Association Greeting!

Congratulations, welcome, and thank you!

First, congratulations to the graduating Class of 2017! Congratulations on achieving your goal of a college degree. And, welcome to the community of Charter Oak Alumni. We invite you to stay connected with your Alma Mater in a variety of ways.

You may decide to become a member of the Alumni Association for the very slight cost of \$15 per year, or you may prefer to pay a one-time fee of \$150 for a lifetime membership.

Alumni may serve as ambassadors to the College in their work and/or social communities, or participate in corporate and college fairs close to home. Or they may attend receptions for prospective students in different geographical locations.

Or, as time permits, you may attend the professional and social opportunities provided for members.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors consists of graduates of Charter Oak State College from a variety of career sectors and degree majors. The Association works collectively to: plan professional and social opportunities; support graduates in furthering their education and career; advance the reputation of the College; and support Charter Oak's unique educational services and goals.

Lastly, thank you to the over 30 alumni who responded to my first Call for News for the Alumni Spotlights found here in *Connections*.

As the new Alumni Association Director at Charter Oak State College, I

was impressed to hear from so many successful, working, thriving adult learners. Many of our Alums have gone on to further their education with Master's degrees and Doctorates, while others are celebrating milestone successes as business owners, or by receiving promotions and appointments (which we hope means raises too!). Plus, some of those who responded are experiencing life with relocations and family additions. We received so many stories and so much news we are only able to shine the spotlight on a few in this issue. Watch future issues for more updates. Please keep sharing your news, as over the next few months we will work to grow and develop our online presence and showcase our growing alumni base.

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"2017 Commencement: Getting Involved" continued from pg. 2

opportunities in new directions" and encouraged all to "firmly and confidently embrace change, this is the inescapable yet promising reality we face as we walk out of the auditorium today."

Dr. Shirley Adams, Provost of Charter Oak State College shared some interesting facts about the Class of 2017, including that 61% were women; graduates ranged in age from 18 to 70+ with the average age being 38; graduates hailed from 35 states and 5 countries with 71% from

Connecticut; 48% earned honors; 500 graduated with a Bachelor's degree, 100 graduated with an Associate's degree; many graduates used multiple methods to earn college credit as noted during the Doris G. Cassiday awards and a number of graduates are already attending graduate school.

Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance were presented to Albert Ayala, Evan Benjamin, Sean Butler, and Mikaela Wan. 🌱

Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

connections

SUMMER/FALL 2017
VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 2

Issued semi-annually for alumni and friends of Charter Oak State College.

 **CharterOakSM**
STATE COLLEGE

Degrees Without Boundaries

Charter Oak State College complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action.

Helen Diecidue, Editor

*State of Connecticut
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor*

*Board of Regents
Mark E. Ojakian, President*

*Charter Oak State College
Ed Klonoski, President*

alumni profile

Meet Keith Waterhouse '16



Keith Waterhouse

What's in a name they ask. Well, if you're Charter Oak Class of 2016 graduate Keith Waterhouse you might say it's destiny. Waterhouse has worked in the water industry for over seventeen years, all at Connecticut Water.

Starting in field service, increasing responsibilities over the years have led him to his current role of Infrastructure Rehabilitation Coordinator. The position involves designing, implementing, and overseeing complex water main rehabilitation projects across Connecticut. At any given time, he can be responsible for concurrent multi-million dollar projects of varying complexities.

Throughout his career, Keith completed a great deal of training and became certified across numerous disciplines with water industry licensure, but lacked a college degree. He had taken courses at Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT early on but eventually the lack of a formal degree weighed heavily on his mind and ultimately led him to seek out a college and earn his Bachelor's degree. His search for a 4-year

college with 2 essential elements – an organizational leadership track and online capabilities – led him to Charter Oak State College. "After reviewing the website and sifting through the program information, my mind was made up. The ability to outline my entire degree was helpful and the variety of courses available made me feel I could attain a quality education while being cost-effective," he says. As often happens to our grads, the satisfaction of earning his Bachelor's degree empowered him to continue his educational endeavors and he is currently midway through his Master's degree in Organizational Leadership at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.

Having worked in his industry for so long and amassing many training hours, Charter Oak's credit for prior learning assessment (PLA) was also an important factor for Keith. Returning to college, with limited time outside family and career, the College's PLA option helped him capitalize on his earned industry certifications, thus shortening his time to degree completion. He found this element of Charter Oak rewarding enough to write about it recently for the water industry's trade publication, *In-Flow Line*. The magazine published Keith's article "Capitalize on What You Know: Certification Equals College Credits" in their Spring 2017 issue. He was able to share with his colleagues that college credits are available to those with current certifications in water treatment or water distribution to inform those who may be considering a return to college.

Keith reports that as the water industry expands beyond the basics

of existing solely as a water utility, a college degree is an expectation of most employers. Water utilities, and the utility sector as a whole, has an increased focus on sustainability, infrastructure upgrades, and becoming more eco-friendly. This paradigm of the business has allowed utility companies to hire in fields not historically linked to its core business. "The combination of experience and a degree is a highly sought after commodity and certainly 'opens doors' to career-minded professionals seeking more responsible roles," he says.

Aside from professional satisfaction, Keith says the sense of pride of completing the program has been very rewarding personally, giving him a sense of empowerment and self-efficacy, as well as instilling in his 12-year-old daughter the value of good education.

"I knew that if my experience warranted credits, it would significantly reduce the overall time it would take to earn my degree. Moreover, the program allowed me to focus on the advanced courses of the program, thereby gaining a deeper understanding of the curriculum".

Beyond his career and family, Keith is also passionate about his volunteer work for both the **American Red Cross** and the water charity

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"Keith Waterhouse" continued from pg. 4

Wells Bring Hope. In his role at the Red Cross as Communications Writer, he interviews and shares the extraordinary stories of Red Cross volunteers across their internal network. With Wells Bring Hope, he acts as a community outreach manager focusing on telling the story of the charity as well as working to procure donations and corporate sponsorships.

He has done the same for Charter Oak State College by telling his story and our story to his fellow professionals in his industry. That positive experience, that exactly meets the needs of working adults, is what we're all about at Charter Oak.

Cheers! 🌱

Celebrate Your Accomplishment with a Charter Oak Class Ring!



Class rings are available at
Jostens.com

Visit the website or call
800-854-7464 for more
information!

"Alumni Association Greeting" continued from pg. 3

A little about me. I most recently worked with the commercial construction industry here in Connecticut, providing coordination for events, news, data and web information, plus member engagement. My favorite duty included coordinating the under-forty years of age Young Contractors Forum (YCF), which consisted of construction workers, suppliers to the industry, and service providers. Working with a growing Board to ensure quality events and programs that became the hallmark of the Forum, the YCF experienced a 75% increase in membership during my tenure as coordinator. I hope to bring the same level of quality and enthusiasm to the Alumni Association and the Foundation. Working with the under-forty group kept me in the throes of youth, planning interesting and timely topics, selecting lively locations, along with serving cold beer, pizza, and wings, which kept the group engaged.

I look forward to working to engage our Alumni and Foundation members and meeting each one of you.

Please note, as an Alum, you should begin receiving *Connections*, the Charter Oak State College Newsletter via US mail. It can also be found online at – www.charteroak.edu/alumni/news.cfm. **Please be sure to stay connected by keeping your contact information current.**

If you have an idea for bringing awareness of the College to your area, an event, or social outing, please reach out to me, **Carol Hall**, *Associate Director of Development and Executive Assistant to the President*, Charter Oak State College, 55 Paul Manafort Drive, New Britain, Connecticut 06053-2150, email: chall@charteroak.edu or call 860-515-3889.

Again, congratulations, welcome, and thank you. Here's hoping the remainder of your summer is enjoyable!

Please Note: **Nancy A. Taylor**, *Assistant Director Corporate Recruitment* has transitioned out of the role of staff advisor to the Alumni Association in order to focus on corporate recruitment and the newly established **Master's of Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership program**. She may still be reached at nataylor@charteroak.edu and will be in contact with the Alumni base for Corporate Outreach. Thank you to Nancy for establishing a group of active Alums as we look forward to hosting more social events for networking opportunities! 🌱

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH **connections**

We would like to hear from you about promotions, job changes, graduate degrees, awards, marriages, births, and other significant successes in your life. We will publish your news in the next edition of *Connections*. Please email your name, class, and news to: **Carol Hall** at chall@charteroak.edu.

alumni spotlight

2003

Dawn Boulas is currently working towards a Master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

2004

John DeCarlo, PhD has been elected chair of the Criminal Justice Department at the University of New Haven. His appointment begins at the start of the fall '17 semester.

2012

Bryan Zerio is currently enrolled in the new Graduate program at Charter Oak State College. In June he was voted onto the Connecticut Afterschool Network Board of Directors.

2013

Katherine Avery continues her 8th year as a private music teacher and piano accompanist in the Denver, Colorado area. She has accompanied many community soloists and ensembles since moving to Denver in 2010. She serves as the Principal Accompanist for the Colorado Mormon Chorale. As part of her duties, she has enjoyed further building her organ playing skills. She also enjoys volunteering in area politics and for interfaith religious events.

2014

Amelia Young immediately enrolled in graduate school at Southern New Hampshire University after her Charter Oak graduation. She graduated with

honors, earning a Master of Arts in English Literature this past fall. She earned a long-term substitute teaching position at Thomas Edison Middle School in Meriden, CT and has since been hired as a Teacher-in-Residence for the 2017-2018 school year at Achievement First Amistad High in New Haven, CT.

Jeff Sowell completed his MS in Computer Information Systems/Security from Boston University in May.

2015

Dan Shopey has completed his first year of Graduate school since graduating with his Charter Oak Bachelor's degree. He also made it onto Food Network as a self-taught cake artist via Confections by Dan.

Kersten F. Hammond-Reich has been accepted into the University of Massachusetts, Amherst School of Public Health and is pursuing her Master's of Public Health with an advanced concentration in epidemiology. She is half way through the program and is concurrently earning a Global Health Certificate and a Certificate in Applied Biostatistics. Kersten is currently CEO of MedBio Publications LLC.

Maira Reyes earned a Certificate in Infant Toddler Care from Charter Oak State College. She also earned an Early Childhood Education Certificate from Norwalk Community College this summer.

Maureen Goulet has worked at the Capitol Region Council of Governments in Hartford, CT since 2002. Upon graduation with a BA in Public Administration she earned a promotion from Program Assistant to Program Manager in 2015, and in July was promoted to Senior Program Manager. Maureen also volunteers with Action Together Connecticut, which leads interested citizens in taking political action to protect and defend progressive values in Connecticut.

Bridget Harrington recently moved to Albuquerque, NM in May to fulfill a longtime dream of living in the Southwest. She is currently the Marketing Manager for UnityBPO, a healthcare business process and technology company.

2016

Zach Payne is currently working on his MBA at the University of Southern Indiana with an anticipated graduation of December. He also plans to pursue a Master of Science in Communication at Purdue University. In 2016 he was featured as a "Top 30 Under 30" by Red Alert Politics. Prior to that Zach was elected to the Jefferson City Council in Indiana at the age of 22, then elected at age 25 in 2014 as the Clark County Recorder also in Indiana, becoming the youngest ever to do so.

Linda West is pursuing her MS in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership at Charter Oak State College. A US Army veteran, who is employed at the University of Connecticut, Linda is President of the Charter Oak Student Government Association. In April she was selected as one of four speakers for the Student Panel at the annual Connecticut State Colleges & Universities' faculty conference. 🌱

happenings

The College welcomes new staff members Carol Hall and Silas Shannon.

Carol Hall joins us as Associate Director of Development and Executive Assistant to the President. She most recently worked with the commercial construction industry in Connecticut, providing coordination for events, data and website management, and member relations. Silas Shannon joins the College as our new Associate for Business Services. He comes to us from Tunxis Community College with over 4 years of experience in the accounting field. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Southern Connecticut State University. Welcome to both!

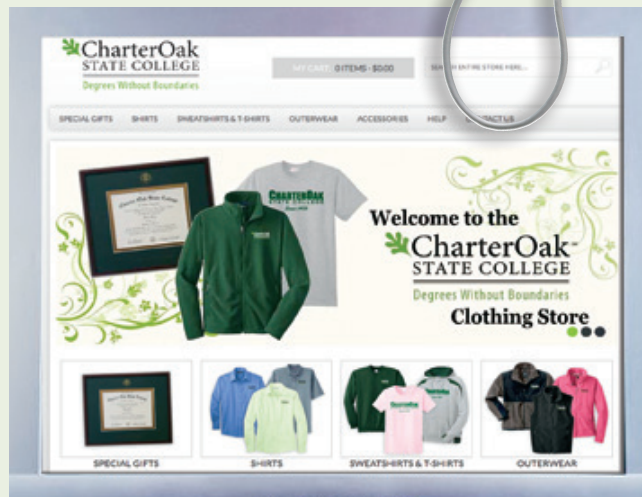


More majors are coming to Charter Oak as the College continues to convert concentrations to majors to meet the needs of our student body. We are currently in the process of changing the Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Public Safety Administration concentrations to majors. These changes are making their way through the Board of Regents approval process now and will be announced when they are official.



Health Information Management (HIM) major updates will be ready for fall. As the healthcare industry constantly changes, so must the HIM curriculum. Updates to related courses are made to be compliant with CAHIIM, the accrediting body of the HIM program. Most courses have undergone minor updates, a few have undergone major updates, and a new course has been added: HIM 345 Healthcare Data Analytics and Information Governance. All of the new curriculum will roll out for the Fall Term 1 classes.

Your Charter Oak Gear is a Click Away!



Wear your college colors! The Charter Oak Shop is open 24/7 at
www.CharterOak.edu/shop
and offers a variety of apparel, accessories, diploma frames, and more!





 CharterOakSM
STATE COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT 2017



*Congratulations
Graduates!*



Doris G. Cassiday Awards Granted at 2017 Commencement



Charles McAfee, IV (left) and Joshua Copeland (right), 2017 Doris G. Cassiday Award winners.

The Doris G. Cassiday Award is given to those graduates of Charter Oak State College who have achieved excellence in innovative learning and who exemplify the essence of the

Charter Oak mission. With this award, the College recognizes individuals who avail themselves fully of a broad range of learning options, earning credits both inside and outside the traditional classroom setting. Options include distance learning, testing, portfolio assessment, contract learning, military service schooling, and other non-collegiate sponsored instruction which has been evaluated for credit, as well as classroom instruction.

The Cassiday Award was created in 1998 in the name of Doris Cassiday, a founding member of Charter Oak State College, in recognition of her long-standing commitment to higher education. Doris served the college for over 30 years; as its first Chairman

upon creation and again as the first Foundation Chairman. She then went on to work directly with students as Assistant Director of Academic Programs as an academic counselor until her retirement in 2015. 🌱

2017 Doris G. Cassiday Award recipients included:

Tiffany Bestani, Arlington, VA
Joshua David Copeland,
Barksdale AFB, LA
Jason Paoletta, Canal Winchester, OH
Tzipporah Heinemann, Monsey, NY
Charles O. McAfee, IV, Milford, CT

Congratulations to all!

WIT and CT WAGE Programs Graduate Nine

The Special Programs at Charter Oak State College continue to move students to self-sufficiency. At the June 4, 2017 graduation ceremony, the Women in Transition (WIT) program celebrated its 18th graduation while the CT WAGE program celebrated its 10th graduation. Nine total students were conferred degrees.

Both programs assist low income single parents complete their

education to create a better future for themselves and their families. The program provides grant funding and other tools and support to help ensure degree completion. 🌱

Congratulations to this year's WIT and CT-WAGE graduates:

Safiya Barr
Daunne Blake
James Cange

Lisa Coleman
Nydia Cotto
Lisa Klein
Nicole Lenares
Lucia Olmeda
Milca Rodriguez

For more information regarding The WIT and CT WAGE program, visit www.charteroak.edu/WIT

Improving the Future of Women through WIT!

The Women in Transition (WIT) program is breaking down the barriers to postsecondary education and breaking the cycle of poverty while enriching the lives of women and children. Serving the disadvantaged and underserved mothers of Connecticut are concerned individual donors and generous foundation/grant supporters.

Thank You 2016/2017 Supporters!

The Leipold Family Foundation
The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Liberty Bank Foundation
CT WAGE

Other supporters include: NewAlliance Foundation, The Daphne Culpeper Seybolt Foundation, The Junior League of Greater New Britain, CHUBB, Carrier Foundation, New Britain Foundation for Public Giving, Smith Whiley Foundation, The Linford & Mildred White Family Foundation, Northeast Utilities, and the Women and Girls' Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation.

The Foundation, the College, and the WIT students appreciate the past and current supporters of this program. For more information about the program or to become a generous supporter of the future of women contact Carol Hall at chall@charteroak.edu or 860-515-3889. 🌱

Charter Oak State College Student Crisis Fund Endowment Founding Members Needed!



What began as David Matthews' desire to help Charter Oak State College adult students achieve successful completion of a college degree has grown into a critical resource for our students. During extraordinary times of crisis, the uniqueness and value of the Student Crisis Fund resides in the ability to respond to unanticipated student needs immediately.

To respond almost instantly to emergency situations helps students stay on course (literally) and achieve success. The need may be technical, medical, or routine in nature, but the financial burdens are real and debilitating. Last year the Charter Oak State College Foundation was

able to ease one such burden and the gratitude of the student was immeasurable: *Thank you so much this means a lot. I was panicking, and I have tears of joy. Thank you so much. I really appreciate all that Charter Oak has done for me, thank you.* And she successfully completed the course.

As we hear in the song by Tim McGraw, *When you get where you're goin'/Don't forget turn back around/ Help the next one in line/Always stay humble and kind.* Isn't it your time to help another in line?

Become a Founding Member of the Student Crisis Fund Endowment and help the Charter Oak State College Foundation create a lasting funding source, provide relief, and be part of the victory celebration.

Founding Members will receive acknowledgment in *Connections*

newsletter and on the website, www.charteroak.edu/foundation.

Consider joining with your firm or colleagues and become a Founding Member with a donation of \$10,000 to the endowment. Or please consider a contribution in any amount to the Student Crisis Fund Endowment.

Contributions to the Charter Oak State College Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization, are tax-deductible to the full-extent allowed by law.

To become a Founding Member of the Charter Oak State College Student Crisis Fund Endowment, or to learn more, please contact **Carol Hall, Associate Director of Development**, Charter Oak State College, **860-515-3889** or email chall@charteroak.edu. 🌱

Foundation Names Honorary Board Member



Foundation President Rebeka Scalia (right) presents Tom Desmond (left) with Honorary Board Member plaque

During the Foundation Board's Annual meeting on August 14th, longtime board member, Thomas E. Desmond was named Honorary Board Member. President Rebeka Scalia read the resolution, approved by the Board, and presented Desmond with a plaque acknowledging his extensive service to the Charter Oak State College Foundation.

Desmond donated extensive time and talent to the mission of the Charter Oak State College Foundation for over 27 years. He's served in many capacities over the years; as Foundation President, Investment Committee Chair, various other committees of the Foundation, as well as providing excellent fiduciary guidance to preserve the Foundation's assets and generous contributions to assist fund-raising goals.

Foundation Board member, Julio Casiano, of the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) presented Desmond with Citations from Congressman John Larson and Senator Richard Blumenthal honoring his service. In addition, Frank Alvarado, Retired Master Sergeant, CT Air National Guard, SBA Veterans Affairs Officer, awarded Tom the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal for his qualifying military wartime service.

He served in the United States Army for 2 years during the Korean War.

Other organizations that have benefited from his extensive volunteer service include The Salvation Army of Greater Hartford, The Rotary Club of Hartford, Connecticut Investment Bankers Association, American Legion Post 96 of West Hartford, CT, Town of West Hartford youth sporting, and CT Football Officials Association to name but a few. 🌱



Tom Desmond (right) receives the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal

Charter Oak State College Foundation Hosts Spring Fundraiser

It was an evening of gratitude and celebration – on April 18, 2017, the Charter Oak State College Foundation hosted the 2017 Spring Fundraiser to support the Student Crisis Fund which provides immediate emergency financial support for students in crisis. The evening allowed the Foundation Board members the opportunity to thank those who have invested and supported the Foundation as well as share in the Foundation's success.

Honoree and keynote speaker, Matt Fleury, President and CEO of the Connecticut Science Center and Chair of the Connecticut Board

of Regents for Higher Education, shared his personal experience as a nontraditional student at Charter Oak State College and how acquiring the degree contributed to where he is today. Fleury lauded the importance of Charter Oak State College's unique niche of assessing prior learning credits and bridging corporate training and higher education to complete an undergraduate degree.

Student Speaker, Valerie D'Apice, opened her speech with a heartfelt thanks to Charter Oak and the Foundation for supporting her during times of great personal and financial

obstacles. She noted that without the assistance from the Student Crisis Fund, it wouldn't have been possible for her to graduate. Valerie graduated with honors and is currently a certified class leader for Powerful Tools for Caregivers. She leads workshops for mothers of special needs children at the New England Joni & Friends Retreat and speaks to couples who deal with the unique challenges of living with chronic illness at seminars in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

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Neal Cunningham, Foundation Vice President, here with Sandra Morgan (left) and Rosemary Hogan.



(Left) Honoree and keynote speaker, Matt Fleury, President and CEO of the Connecticut Science Center and Chair of the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education with Frank Scalia.



Wanda Warshauer, Director, Academic Services, Charter Oak State College with Student Speaker, Valerie D'Apice and her daughter.



Jeanne LeBlanc, Tom Desmond, Tom McGovern, and Rachael Desmond

Charter Oak State College Foundation Donors – Thank you for your gracious gifts of generosity.

A special thank you for the thoughtful gift that will support and inspire many adult students to pursue and conclude their educational dreams. Listed below are the names of generous donors who contributed to the Charter Oak State College Foundation for fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

*Loyalty in Giving, equates to five consistent years of giving. We thank you for recognizing the ongoing need and choosing to make a difference.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE **\$750 and above**

Nicolin Carr
Merle and David Harris*
Astrid and Fred T. Hanzalek*
Paul Kaminski*
Ed and Angela Klonoski*
Kathy Marusa*
Dan Purushotham

SUPPORTER CIRCLE **\$500-\$749**

Shirley Adams*
Robert Addy
Edward Balaban
Michael Brennan
George and
Maria F. Claffey, Jr.*
Scott Claunch
Neal F. Cunningham*
Marjory Marsching*
Marc Mullen
Joyce Petrella*
Rebeka Scalia*
Susan B. Sweeney*

CHARTER CIRCLE **\$250-\$499**

Thomas Desmond*
Matt Fleury*
Carl and Karen Forster
Krystyna Gorniak-Kocikowska*
Jason Jakubowski*
Cecilia Kozlowski
Shirley L. Leopold*
Ruth MacDonald
Deene Morris*
Donald Rainville
Craig Rothman
Leena Sampemane*
Rebecca Wareing*

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Steven Alexandre
Marcia P. Anderson-Esson*
Stephen C. Atwood, Jr.
Daniel Bishop
Michael Broderick*
Donald W. Brodeur*

Jennifer Hall Shea and
Peter Bruns*
Ruth and Barry Budlong*
Donald W. Butler
Carolyn Caggiano*
Patricia Carroll
Julio Casiano
Jacqueline A. Cheney*
Deborah Ciak
Mardia Coleman*
Edward and Suann Cronin*
Lisa Crowe
John J. Doody
Sheila Donnelly
Patrick Doran
Edward Drapp*
Denise Dreher
Carlo Esidore*
Roger and Teresa Finke
Kevin Fong
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Ann Marie and
Darrell Gagnon
Joseph Gantert
Harold Gantert
Richard Gerber*
Jerome Golden*
Lila K. Guillet
Naren Gursahaney
Joanne Hryniewicz Hallstrom
Eileen Harding*
Richard Hasselkus
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David and Patricia Hickox
Angela Jimenez*
Paul Kaminski*
Barbara and
Joseph Kaplowe*
Roger Kemp, PhD
Linda Larkin*
Maribeth and
Shelly Lawrence
Jeanne Leblanc
Lora M. LeMosy*
Robert and Mary Ann Lutz
Richard Mach
Annie Malechek
Brendan Marusa
David Marusa
Mike Marusa
Georgann Matheny
Chris May*
Barbara Mazurek

George and
Rowena McGoldrick*
Thomas McGovern*
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Dana Wilkie
The Honorable Roberta Willis
Marlene M. Woodman
Ashley Zennis

continued on pg. 14

BUSINESSES DONATING TO THE FOUNDATION

Hartford Foundation for
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(COSC) Student Activity
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Simsbury Bank
Shoe Fly Shoe, Inc.

COMPANIES PROVIDING MATCHES

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Helen Scully
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Peggy Squires
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Susan Socci

Robert Alexander Willis
Carol Willis

IN HONOR OF

Alfred Brissette
Joanne Kneiss

Marlene Woodman
Merle and David Harris

Merle Harris
Marjory Marsching

"Foundation Hosts Fundraiser" continued from pg. 12

Fleury and D'Apice spoke openly of their gratitude to and success at Charter Oak State College, both emphasizing the importance of a nontraditional higher education structure, and appealed to the audience to keep the spirit of the Foundation alive by supporting both the institution and the Foundation. The Student Crisis Fund has helped students with emergency needs, including replacing stolen laptops and providing for cancer treatment. The generosity of constituents keeps the dream of achieving success through a college degree alive for many students here at Charter Oak. 🌱



Student Speaker, Valerie D'Apice with Ed Klonoski, President



Joyce Petrella, Foundation Secretary with her husband Mario

*The Student Crisis Fund was established in 2011 to provide financial assistance to Charter Oak State College students for unforeseen financial crisis situations that prevent students from successfully completing their degree. The Student Crisis Fund is a critical resource to the Charter Oak State College student during extraordinary times of crisis. To learn more about becoming a Founder of the Charter Oak State College Student Crisis Fund, please contact **Carol Hall** at **860-515-3889** or **chall@charteroak.edu**.*

\$91,300 Awarded to Over 100 Students by the Charter Oak State College Foundation

The Charter Oak State College Foundation, comprised of volunteers committed to higher education, worked tirelessly through the year to secure donations and distribute scholarships, technology grants, and other financial support.

The generous giving of Charter Oak State College Alumni, family, and friends coupled with corporate and organizational grants contributed to the overall ability to distribute needed funds.

The mission of the Board is to provide students relief from the financial barriers that often prevent our motivated adult learners from pursuing and completing a higher education degree.

\$91,300 awarded to over **100 Charter Oak students** in fiscal year 16/17 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017), included:

✿ **Endowed Scholarships** awarded to help meet the cost of education; used for tuition, fees, books, or other educational expenses, ranging from \$700 – \$1,600 per student.

✿ **Foundation Technology Grants** supported students' technological needs such as: ensuring access to Wi-Fi, laptops, and printers up to \$500.

✿ **Student Crisis Fund** provided immediate access to grant money for students that experienced unforeseen financial crisis situations that could prevent successful completion of their degree.

✿ **Women in Transition Program (WIT)** designed to assist low-income, single mothers to complete their college degree; provides financial assistance along with mentoring.

✿ **Prior Learning Assessment Program (PLA)** distributed funds to encourage students with knowledge equivalent to college-level learning to pursue credit via established PLA pathways; thus reducing the cost and time to graduation.

To be part of the giving and help make the educational dreams of adult learners a reality, don't hesitate, contact **Carol Hall, Associate Director of Development** at Charter Oak State College, today!

Email: chall@charteroak.edu or phone: **860-515-3889**.

To be eligible for a scholarship, Charter Oak students must be matriculated and in good standing. Some Endowed Scholarships also include other variables such as, demonstrated financial need; a minimum grade point average; and a specific course of study.

Scholarship applications will be available at the end of August 2017; details will be provided in the Acorn Student Portal and via email distribution. ✿

Thank you for the dedicated service of the Charter Oak State College 2016/2017 Board of Directors, which included:

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Legacy Giving – You Can Influence the Future

The Charter Oak State College Foundation can help you establish a legacy gift to provide for students for generations to come. You are invited to demonstrate a commitment to education by leaving a charitable, tax-deductible bequest to the Charter Oak State College Foundation. Individuals from all walks of life are discovering that one of the most effective ways to make a difference and touch the future is to leave a legacy.

Please contact the Foundation by calling **Carol Hall** at **860-515-3889** to discuss your bequest, or please consider conveniently making a donation online at www.charteroak.edu/foundation/give.cfm.

We need your help and no matter what the size, each gift directly impacts our students.

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Registration Deadlines

Fall Term 2 • 10/26/17

Spring Term 1 • 1/11/18

Spring Term 2 • 3/15/18

Spread the Word! Fellow alums, friends, coworkers, family!