

connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011 VOL. XXXV NO. 2



President Klonoski congratulates honorary degree recipient, David Matthews, during June commencement ceremonies.

Grads Go Green – Recycled Plastic Makes Fashion Statement

It took an average of 23 plastic bottles to create each gown worn by Charter Oak graduates attending June commencement exercises. It was all part of the 'go green' effort that produced a green graduation environment for members of the class of 2011.

This year, the college introduced the GreenWeaver™ cap and gown coordinates that bedecked each student who marched down the graduation aisle. We're told that

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550 Receive Diplomas During 2011 Commencement Ceremony

U.S. AFGHANISTAN ADVISOR IS HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

In contrast to the unemployed status of most 2011 graduates of traditional colleges and universities, a majority of the 550 students who received Charter Oak degrees during the College's June 5 graduation ceremony are working adults. Their college experiences reflect those of most Charter Oak alumni who made personal commitments to complete their degrees following education hiatuses.

The graduating class of online learners, whose average age is 39, currently hold positions within a broad spectrum of employment environments including business, industry, government and the fields of health care, public safety, information technology and education. Women make up 60% of the Charter Oak class of 2011. One-third of the members of the class live outside of Connecticut. They reside in 37 states and four foreign countries. The youngest class member is 16; the oldest is 70.

[continued on pg. 5](#)

'Connections' Makes a Color Connection

We're brightening up your reading experience! *Connections* has gone full color. Beginning with this issue, your alumni newsletter takes on a new vibrancy. We've given our photos more life. We've 'dressed' things up with the hope that reading *Connections* will now bring you even greater enjoyment than before. Of course, our editorial content will continue to focus on our alumni by updating you on your alumni association, your fellow alums and news about new Charter Oak initiatives. Enjoy!

in this issue

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'Green' gets the nod for graduation

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Sixty-nine receive Foundation scholarships

THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



Next Generation Programs

I am writing this in the days after our 2011 graduation exercises. We had a record number of graduates attend the ceremony, and they and their families filled the auditorium with 'joyful noise.' Now it is time to turn our eyes forward and continue our work at "growing the nation's

workforce one graduate at a time." Toward that end, we are pursuing several exciting programmatic ideas.

As the state finishes its budget for next year, and the plans for reorganizing our sector emerge, we are working to bring three new programs forward. The first is our graduate program in Organizational Effectiveness.

This new degree level and the program, itself, have long been desired by our graduates. I can't begin to count the number of our graduating students who asked me, on commencement Sunday, when Charter Oak would offer a master's degree. We think this is it.

On the undergraduate level, we have spent the past year engaged in market research to identify the programs that would provide access to emerging jobs. We hired a company experienced in such research to guide our efforts, and they identified a set of jobs that would be available in the coming five years, both in-state and beyond. Then we asked them to survey 750 adults who were looking for a bachelor's degree about their views regarding those programs, the subject of online learning and Charter Oak. From the ensuing results we identified Health Information Management as our next focus. This program will align well with our current Health Care Administration offerings, as well as our IT concentration. From what we have been hearing, the

"... this is an ambitious project, but it is the sort of creative programming that Charter Oak was invented to provide."

health industry is finally serious about moving its records into databases that allow those records to be stored, accessed, and transferred safely and quickly. This work will require a new generation of workers with IT and health care backgrounds. We believe this is a perfect niche for Charter Oak.

And our most ambitious project involves our first-named program. Charter Oak State College is working on a partnership agreement with a world-renowned pioneer in the field of personal computing, innovation and technology. This program will be positioned as the nation's premier technology and innovation degree program providing the next generation of technologists skills, tools, and knowledge to deal with the field of emerging technologies and

innovation. It will be a bachelor's level program, but it has the capability to grow to the Master's level and down into K-12. We even have hopes to engage the Science/Museum sector to create content that we can deliver to the K-12 world. As I said, this is an ambitious project, but it is the sort of creative programming that Charter Oak was invented to provide. Stay tuned for a major announcement regarding this exciting new endeavor.

Enjoy your summer. We will be busy working to make your College the best that it can be.

Ed Klonoski
President

"Grads Go Green" continued from pg. 1

carbon dioxide gas emissions are reduced by some 55 percent when fabric is manufactured from a plastic base versus manufacturing with virgin polyester and that the use of thermal recycled energy – like that used to produce the graduation gowns – saves expended energy by 52 percent. Additionally the plastic-based gowns'

fabric is softer to the touch and more breathable than traditional polyester fabric (and we all know about the positives of 'non-traditional', don't we?).

Also new, this year, were the colorful green and white tassels that accompanied each graduate's mortar board. Even 'tagless' size labels were a 2011 gown feature. All gown sizes were

stamped onto the 'green' gown material using soy ink.

So, it looks like a green precedent has been set for future graduations. Who knows, cap and gown colors may even take a turn for the green in the years ahead. 🌱

Greetings From Your Alumni Association...

Congratulations Graduates!

To the 550 members of the class of 2011 who recently joined the ranks of Charter Oak alumni – congratulations, and welcome to a distinguished club! One hundred seventy-five grads and their families joined us in Connecticut for this year's commencement ceremony – the most ever attending graduation in person – and an impressive number considering the fact that so many members of the class reside in distant locations across the country.

As a Charter Oak grad, you are now eligible to join the College's Alumni Association, an organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of current graduates and future Charter Oak students. The primary purpose of the Association is to provide professional and social opportunities for its members; to support graduates in furthering their education and careers; and to advance the reputation of the College.

For only \$15 a year (or \$150 for a lifetime membership) you can become an Alumni Association member and enjoy all advantages membership provides. (Please visit www.CharterOak.edu/alumni, and click the 'Membership' box at the top of the page. A membership package will be mailed to you.)

The Alumni Association is coming off a very productive year, and we are gearing up for more social and career-enhancing events in the year ahead. During the past year, we partnered with the Student Association to bring professionals representing a variety of career environments to the College. These experts addressed ways in which alumni could make the most of their Charter Oak experience in

an ever-changing job market. We also held an informative, online alumni chat targeting prospective students, and we hosted a wonderful dinner and theatre event in Connecticut that brought Charter Oak alumni, faculty and staff together for a delightful evening.

We hope you will seriously consider membership in the Alumni Association. Your participation will solidify our support for the College and allow us to expand the quantity and quality of events that will benefit all alumni. If you have interest in serving on the Association's board, we would welcome your participation. You needn't live in geographic proximity to Connecticut. Many of our board members have productively participated from a distance.

Finally, we are continually in the process of updating our database of alumni mailing addresses, emails and phone numbers. If your contact information has recently changed, or if you're a new graduate and have not yet provided your permanent contact information, please go to www.CharterOak.edu/update to update. We want to remain in touch with you!

Meanwhile, we'd very much like you to help swell the ranks of the Charter Oak Alumni Association, a dedicated organization that plays a key role in supporting the College and the specialized services it provides adults students.



Guiding the Charter Oak State College Alumni Association are its president, Carlo Esidore, and Nancy Taylor, the College's Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Corporate Recruitment.

Cordially,

Carlo Esidore

*President, Charter Oak State College
Alumni Association*

Nancy Taylor

*Assistant Director of Alumni Relations
and Corporate Recruitment* 🌱

connections

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Issued semi-annually by the Board for State
Academic Awards for alumni and friends
of Charter Oak State College.

 **CharterOak**SM
STATE COLLEGE

Chuck Albert, Editor

State of Connecticut
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor

Board for State Academic Awards
Ed Klonoski, Executive Director



Commander Bruce Brown

Charter Oak graduates have succeeded in a wide variety of professional endeavors, and a noteworthy career in the military is prominent among them. During his 27 years of service, Bruce Brown rose from a seaman recruit in the United States Coast Guard to the lofty rank of Commander. While executing assignments related

to his highly responsible Coast Guard position, he diligently pursued and reached his educational goal – a career-enhancing Bachelor of Science degree from Charter Oak State College.

During his military career, Bruce has been directly involved in many of the Coast Guard's maritime law enforcement efforts including counter-narcotic and embargo operations. He coordinated aid logistics for hurricane Katrina-stricken New Orleans and assumed critical leadership in developing a financial management system that aided the Coast Guard's response role during the Haitian earthquake. He is a two-time recipient of the Chief Financial Officers Award for Excellence, winner of the Joel Magnussen Coast Guard Innovation Award and recipient of the Douglas A. Munro Award for Inspirational leadership – just a few of the honors bestowed up him by the service branch "committed to strengthening the nation's future by educating, developing, training, and inspiring leaders of character..." It appears that

the achievements of this dedicated U.S. Coast Guard officer and distinguished Charter Oak State College alum are a reflection of this sound Coast Guard mission statement.

Bruce has, somehow, found time between his military assignments to author and publish a dozen books that address a wide range of interests including internet marketing, conceptual advertising, blogging techniques, how to start an online business and benefits for retired members of the military. You can learn more about your fellow Charter Oak alum, his achievements and the professional services he provides by going to his personal Web site: www.gizwebs.com.

(NOTE: If you are interested in sharing your success story with your fellow alumni, please contact Nancy Taylor – Charter Oak's Assistant Director of Alumni Relations – and let her know. She can be reached via e-mail: nataylor@charteroak.edu, or by telephone: 860-832-3863). 🌱

D'Amato Award to Rafael Rodriguez

The D'Amato Graduate Studies Award, a cash award presented annually at Charter Oak commencement exercises, has been given, this year, to Rafael Rodriguez, a 20-year veteran of the New Haven, CT, Police Department. He earned his Associate degree from Charter Oak in 2010 and his Bachelor's degree, with honors, as a member of the class of 2011.

To be eligible for D'Amato award consideration, applicants must hold a Charter Oak degree, must be a Connecticut resident and have been accepted into an accredited graduate program. Criteria for the award

include academic promise, motivation and contribution to community life. Rodriguez is currently enrolled at Tiffin University where he is working toward his Master's degree in Criminal Justice and Homeland Security.

He refers to his admission to Charter Oak as "a life-changing experience and the stepping stone to a lifelong personal goal of obtaining my bachelor's degree." He also affirmed that returning to college after a twenty-year hiatus served as both a personal challenge and an example for his children.

In addition to his 20 years on the police force, Rodriguez served in the United States Army for seven years. He has twice received certificates of bravery for exceptional work in the line of duty as a police officer. He has served as a mentor and coach for children diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and as a board member for the Albie Booth Boys and Girls Club of New Haven and for that area's Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Project.

Clearly, Rafael Rodriguez exemplifies the spirit of the D'Amato Award! 🌱

Dinner, Theatre Highlight Spring Alum Event

The Alumni Association's spring social event took place April 29 as 62 Charter Oak alums, faculty and staff members gathered in East Haddam, CT, at the site of the 135-year-old Goodspeed Opera House, for a delightful evening that included dinner and a very entertaining performance of the musical revival *My One and Only*. Located on the banks of the Connecticut River, Goodspeed has achieved international acclaim as the home of musical theatre.

The weather was perfect, and attendees were treated to a magnificent sunset as they enjoyed dinner at the famous Gelston House restaurant located adjacent to the opera house. Alumni in attendance were thrilled to meet Charter Oak faculty and staff, most of whom they'd known only through e-mail and telephone contact. "It's nice," one alum observed, "to be able to put a face to a voice."

The Alumni Association will soon begin to plan for next year's spring social event. If you have suggestions



Enjoying before-dinner cocktails at the Alumni event are (l-r) Nancy Taylor, Charter Oak's Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Corporate Recruitment; Foundation Board Member Joyce Petrella and her husband Mario; and alum, Greg Sneed, '10, Deputy Chief of the Eastern Connecticut State University Police Department and his wife Helen.

for a 2012 gathering venue or for other activities the Association might sponsor, please contact Nancy Taylor,

Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Corporate Recruitment at nataylor@charteroak.edu. 🌿

"550 Receive Diplomas" continued from pg. 1

Graduation was a family affair for four members of this year's class. Victoria and Thomas Zakrzewski of Meriden, CT, mother and son, earned Bachelor of Arts degrees. A married couple, Mary and John Connelly, who are East Hampton, CT residents, were recipients of Bachelor of Science degrees. The Connelys hold health care management positions at Connecticut's Middlesex Hospital.

In his remarks to the 175 attending graduates and their families and to other members of the Class of 2011 across the country who watched via a live Webcast, Charter Oak president, Ed Klonoski, sounded a

congratulatory note, then asked: "Who, among you, could not have finished this degree if your courses were not available online?" He was alluding to the creation of Charter Oak by the Connecticut State Legislature in 1973 to serve adult students and to the college's status as Connecticut's only totally online public college.

David Matthews, a Charter Oak alumnus and business consultant who is on special assignment for the U.S. Government in Afghanistan, received the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters. Most of Matthews' career has been spent in industry management, negotiations

and investment advisory capacities. He currently serves the Department of Defense Civilian Expeditionary Workforce as a primary expert in Economics and Development with involvement in counterinsurgency strategies. Last November, he was awarded the NATO Medal for his service as Senior Strategic Advisor for Stability Operations in Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul. He will return to his duties in Kabul this summer.

Klonoski read a congratulatory letter in which General David Petraeus, U.S. Commander in Afghanistan, lauded Matthews for his service and achievements. 🌿

Jackie Sahadi Joins Alumni Association Board

Jackie Sahadi is the newest member of the Charter Oak Alumni Association Board of Directors. She earned her BS in 2002 and has found it to be a valuable asset that complements the nursing degree she had earned earlier. A self-described “people person,” she has always been eager to help people in any way she can and concludes that was the reason she was drawn to the nursing profession. Her intent, as a Board member, is to expand her motivation to assist by serving her fellow alumni.

Jackie is currently employed at Aetna as a nurse case manager and enjoys the benefits of a flex schedule that enables her to work from home. She says the opportunity to operate from her home office allows her to spend more time with her husband, three

children and five, (yes, five) dogs – four poodles and a rescue terrier.



Jackie Sahadi

She is currently enrolled as a part-time student at Central Connecticut State University working toward a master’s in Health/Psychology. She also recently became a Notary Public and is looking forward to her first “official stamping” opportunity. Jackie, who enjoys the Connecticut shore, has a home in Old Saybrook where she hopes, one day, to retire.

Her thoughts about her experience as a Charter Oak student: “The flexibility and course offerings are what made it so appealing to me, not to mention the excellent guidance I received from Linda Larkin (Charter Oak’s Director of Academic Services). She was such an inspiration! I am patiently waiting for Charter Oak to approve a master’s program. I would transfer in a heartbeat!” 🌱

Connecticut Legislature Recognizes Grads’ Achievements

Two members of Charter Oak’s class of 2011 were honored by Connecticut’s Legislature during its annual College Academic Day, held April 27 at the State Capitol. Dawn Politz and Carolyn Bystrak, were among some 40 college students, statewide, recognized by the legislative body for “possessing outstanding academic qualities.” Both graduated with honors and achieved near-perfect Grade Point Averages while pursuing their Bachelor of Science degrees. Politz earned her degree in Business Administration. Bystrak’s concentration was in Organizational Leadership. Both women are employed in Connecticut’s insurance industry.

Each year, state lawmakers honor outstanding students from Connecticut’s public and private colleges and universities. Honorees are selected on the bases of academic achievement and extracurricular involvement within their respective institutions.

Following receipt of their official citations of recognition, Politz and Bystrak were formally introduced to

members of the Senate and House at a state capitol reception. 🌱



Dawn Politz (l) and Carolyn Bystrak, were honored by the State Legislature for their academic achievement while members of the Charter Oak State College Class of 2011.

Designer Diploma Frame Remains Hot 'Online Store' Item

A handsomely-designed diploma frame, introduced by Charter Oak's Online Shop during last year's graduation season, has again proven a popular item among both new and past graduates. Rich in its appointments, the impressive frame (pictured) allows you to proudly display your hard-earned Charter Oak diploma in an in-home or at-work setting.

The frame is one of many appealing imprinted items available on the Charter Oak Online Shop Web site

(shop.charteroak.edu). Featured are a wide variety of warm weather and fall/winter apparel including T and sweat shirts, jackets and vests, scarves, hats and blankets. You'll also find a selection of mugs, coasters and Charter Oak window decals among the Shop's inventory.

Online orders are processed and shipped directly to your address from the Shop's warehouse. The Online Shop is open 24/7 for your browsing convenience. 🌿



Six 2011 Graduates Share Cassiday Award

Six members of the Class of 2011, who hail from five different states, were named Doris G. Cassiday Award winners during commencement ceremonies on June 5. The Cassiday Award was created in 1998 to recognize individuals who achieve excellence in innovative learning and who exemplify the essence of the Charter Oak mission.

The award recipients were Shaun Albrechtson of Vancouver, Washington; Andrew Blessing, a resident of Newton, Massachusetts; John K. Brackin from Semmes, Alabama; August L. DeFrance of East Hampton, Connecticut; Long Beach, New York's Barry Kleinman; and David P. Wrinn who resides in Norwalk, Connecticut.

The Cassiday Award was established in the name of Doris Cassiday, a founding member of Charter Oak State College, in recognition of her longstanding commitment to higher education. She continues to play an active role at the College serving as Assistant Director of Academic Programs and as an academic counselor. 🌿

SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, October 27, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

Join Charter Oak State College and
the Public Safety community for the Shea Lecture:

EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY: FACT OR FICTION?

featuring: Dr. Jennifer Dysart
Associate Professor of Psychology
John Jay College of Criminal Justice



With Panelists



Chief of Police Frank Limon
New Haven



Chief of Police Daryl Roberts
Hartford



Chief of Police Joseph Gaudett
Bridgeport

MODERATOR: Branford Chief of Police, John DeCarlo, Ph.D.

Fundraiser reception to follow. The Shea Lecture is free and open to the public.
Location: The Hartford, Tower Auditorium, Hartford, CT

 CharterOak™
STATE COLLEGE
Degrees Without Boundaries

alumni spotlight

1983

Joseph Gosselin has served, since 1999, as an adjunct professor at Central Connecticut State University teaching Technical Drafting and CAD. He also teaches technical and manufacturing courses at three of Connecticut's community colleges. Joe additionally consults to the manufacturing community in the areas of tooling and equipment design and was recently awarded his fourth U.S. patent. Three of the patents are related to the manufacture of jet engine components.

1996

Margarita Leahy tells us she recently received her Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC) from the state of New Jersey and that she has filed paperwork that would license her as a Clinical Alcohol Drug Counselor. She has also formed the community-based organization, Support of Sober Students, a support group for university students in quest of sobriety/recovery.

1997

Albert Schmid recently returned from Paris and the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards competition where his book *The Kentucky Bourbon Cookbook* was named 'Best Book for Cooking with Drinks in the World.' He has also authored and published *The Hospitality Manager's Guide to Wines, Beers and Spirits*.

1998

Jennifer (Fransen) Johnson writes that she became Mrs. Paul Johnson in 2003 and that she and her groom recently moved from Branford, CT to Stratford, CT.

Jennifer graduated from Charter Oak with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies. Her concentration was Human Services Administration.

2002

Cynthia Carlson happily shares the news that she became Mrs. David Olbrys on April 7, this year. She notes that she successfully completed Charter Oak's ECE-ARC program in 2009.

Lorrie Moore-Johnson, who earned her Associate degree from Charter Oak, proudly announces that she has received her Bachelor of Arts, with a focus on Human Services, from the University of Hartford.

2003

Randell Orner reports that he completed his Master of Science in Information Technology in 2004 at Touro University International; that he earned a graduate certificate in Risk Management from the University of Florida in 2007; and that he recently defended his dissertation, thereby earning a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Northcentral University.

2006

Leigh H. Shapiro, who earned his Charter Oak degree in Public Safety Administration, has been promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in the Hartford, CT Fire Department. In 2009, he received his Master's degree in Executive Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University. He is a 23-year veteran of Hartford's fire-fighting force.

Joan Tobin authored an article, *Are Women Missing in Literary Reviews?*, that appeared in the Winter, 2011 issue of *On The Issues Magazine*. The article can be accessed at <http://www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/cafe2/article/141>

2008

Ruth Garby Torres informs us that she graduated from the Harvard Kennedy School in May with a Master's degree in Public Administration. She and her husband, Rafael, plan to return to their West Haven, CT home following their stint in Cambridge. While at Harvard, Ruth completed an extracurricular program in the Kennedy School's prestigious Women and Public Policy Program *From Harvard Square to the Oval Office*. The program is designed for women who plan to run for public office.

2009

Barry J. Volante has earned a Master of Arts degree from Western Connecticut State University. He majored in American and European History. He notes that he intends to further his education while pursuing a career in teaching.

Get Your Charter Oak Class Ring

Alumni interested in purchasing a class ring should contact Josten's representative, Steve Fitzgerald. He can be reached directly by e-mail – stephenfitzgerald@jostens.com or by phone at 401-683-5675.



2010

Jeanne Leblanc has informed us that on July 1, she will assume the position of Communications and Education Manager for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Connecticut.

Bruce Makoto Arnold has had two single-authored and two co-authored articles accepted for publication, although he hasn't advised as to the

articles' subject matter. Bruce has begun new duties as a visiting professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Rodney Rios writes from Mobile, Alabama: "I wanted to let you know, I just completed my degree (Master of Science, The National Graduate School of Quality Management). I am the first one in my family to complete a degree beyond high school. Thank you, again,

for welcoming me into the Charter Oak Family and making my dream possible!"

2011

Bill DeLong has begun his quest for a master's degree with Webster University. 🌱

Graduation A Family Affair For Husband-Wife, Mom-Son

'Togetherness' appears to be a family trait for Mary and John Connelly, husband and wife who, as 2011 Charter Oak graduates (with honors) are workmates as well as classmates. Mary is a registered nurse who serves as Clinical Informatics Project Manager at Connecticut's Middlesex Hospital while John, a paramedic, is employed by the same institution as an EMS Quality Coordinator.

Married for 12 years and the parents of a young daughter, both alluded to the flexibility factor of online learning. "The ability to log on to classes at our convenience allowed us to earn our degrees while we maintained

commitments to our jobs and our family life," Mary observed.

June 5 was a particularly rewarding day for Victoria and Thomas Zakrzewski as well. Both mother and son are 2011 graduates who were awarded bachelor's degrees – Victoria in Literature, Thomas in Criminal Justice. The drive to learn appears to have encompassed the entire Zakrzewski clan. A similar family affair occurred just a year ago when Thomas and his dad, a police captain, received their Associate degrees from a local community college.

Any siblings in the house? 🌱



John and Mary Connelly

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH connections

We'd like to hear from you about promotions, graduate degrees, awards, marriages, births, and other significant successes in your life. We'll publish your news in the next edition of *Connections*. Please use the form below, or drop us a note. Send to: Alumni News, Charter Oak State College, 55 Paul J. Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT 06053-2150 – or e-mail nataylor@charteroak.edu.

Your name and address _____

E-mail address _____ Class of _____

My news _____

E-mail Helps Us Stay In Touch With You



Your e-mail address allows us to share Charter Oak news with you regardless of where you hang out!

Charter Oak and its Alumni Association currently maintain e-mail addresses for a majority of nearly 12,000 alumni. E-mail allows us to communicate news of interest to our graduates more frequently than is possible through this *Connections* newsletter that is published twice annually. Our e-mail database is fully protected and is used *only* to communicate with alumni. If you have recently established a first time e-mail address or changed your old e-mail designation and would like to share it with us, please let us know by visiting www.CharterOak.edu/update

and completing the Alumni Information Update form ***being sure to leave the opt-in box checked.*** The process is easy and quick!

Should you choose not to complete the form, you will not receive Charter Oak e-mail alerting you to special alumni offers, events, publications and other pertinent alumni-related information.

We want to stay in touch! Please complete the online Alumni Information Update form as soon as you've finished reading this issue of *Connections*. 🌱

Foundation Distributes \$20K in Scholarship Awards

Sixty-nine Charter Oak students benefited from \$20,000 in scholarship awards that were presented during a 12-month period from 2010 through 2011. The scholarships were awarded by the Charter Oak State College Foundation whose board of directors include 16 dedicated volunteers representing both working and retired professionals. Non-voting Board members include a Charter Oak Student, a Charter Oak alumnus, a Charter Oak faculty member and the College's president. The Board manages the Foundation's affairs and business determining the manner in which funds – both principal and income – are expended, based on established policies.

To be eligible for a scholarship distribution, a Charter Oak student must be matriculated and in good standing, must have completed a minimum of one semester following initial matriculation and must demonstrate financial need.

A minimum Grade Point Average is also a guideline for scholarship eligibility.

As Charter Oak State College strives to sustain its leadership role in adult higher education, we look to our alumni and friends to lend a helpful and caring hand. By making a charitable, tax deductible bequest to the Charter Oak State College Foundation, you will help provide the resources required to preserve the future of the College and assist us in fulfilling our commitment to our mission and our students. Your generosity is also a way of expressing your appreciation to the institution that has made a positive impact upon your life and career. Gifts of any size are important, and we hope that, in your own way, you will leave a legacy.

Please contact the Foundation through the office of Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski – 860-832-3876 – to discuss your bequest, or you can conveniently make a donation online at <http://coscf.org/ways-to-give>. 🌱

Hartford Foundation
for Public Giving
has again provided generous
support for Charter Oak's Women
In Transition (WIT) Program
that benefits underserved and
underemployed single Connecticut
mothers in their quest for degree
completion. Both the College
and WIT wish to express sincerest
thanks to the Foundation for
its advocacy.

THANK YOU DONORS

The Charter Oak State College Foundation and the College thank our donors. Your generosity is making a difference for individual students and the College. The list of donors, below, includes those who made a contribution to the Annual Fund or Endowment between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. To learn more about the Foundation and giving opportunities, please visit the new Foundation Web site – www.coscf.org – or contact Charter Oak president, Ed Klonoski, by phone (860-832-3875) or e-mail (eklonoski@charteroak.edu)

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$500 and above

James Banks
Shirley Adams
Alice Hermann
Ed Klonoski
Marjory Marsching
Michael Marusa
David and Jane Mathews
Joyce Petrella
Rebeka Scalia
Robert Zabek

ACORN CIRCLE

\$250-499

Thomas Christensen
George &
Maria Claffey, Jr.
Deene Bernardine
Thomas Desmond
Yvette Ghannam
Diane Goldsmith
Astrid Hanzalek
Merle & David Harris
Eileen Kraus
Shirley Leopold
Allison Santoro
Susan Sweeney
Gale Terrill
Thomas Thomas
Christine Visick

CHARTER CIRCLE

\$100-249

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Ruth Budong
Carolyn Caggiano
Kathryn Carbone
Kevin Cocoran
Sandra Colpitts
Heather Cordasco
Louis Couture
Howard Cronin
Neal Cunningham
Patrick Doran
Edward Drapp
Elsie Rogers
Nancy Fellingner
Anita Flay
Matt Fleury
Vincent Gavagan
Martin Geitz
Kirsten & Oz Griebel
Phyllis Gutowski
Eileen Harding
Albert Harris
Ella Sue Hawkins
David Hemenway
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Howard Hostrader
Angela Jimenez
Jeanne LeBlanc

William Ledoux
Lora LeMosy
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Marcus Rivera
David Robinson
Lillian Rogers
Jennifer Shea
Susan Socci
Lynn Talit
John Whitcomb
Clifford Williams
Lenny Winkler
Marlene Woodman

SUSTAINER CIRCLE

\$50-99

Clara Allen
Marcia Anderson-Esson
Julia Bartlett
Veronica Botti
Edward Brown
Josephine Caffrey
Kathryn Carbone
Ellen Carter
Doris Cassidy
Jacqueline Cheney
Marc Cohen
Patricia Derech
Anne Ewell
Irene Falcetti
Deborah Flinn
Jerome Golden
Krystyna Gorniak
Kathleen Hartnett
Susan Huard
Steven Hudak
Linda Larkin
Mary Lavoie
Amy Lawson
Kenneth Long
William Malone
Kristin Martin
Tom McGovern
William McKeon
Mark Miller
Edward & Maria Mullady
Gregg & Sandra Nodelman
Blanche Parker
Paige Pelton
Midge Pych
Barry Rahmy
Raman Shyamala
Thomas Slavin
Sebastian Sorrentino
Rocco & Susan Vitale
Barry Volante

SUPPORTER CIRCLE

\$49 and under

Nancy Allen
Jane Barstow
Joseph Beermann
Dr. George Brophy
Elizabeth Burns
Thomas Cherry
Stephen Courtney
Cheryl Cuazzo
Lucille Cusano
Ronald Deyton
Elva Dresner
Carlo Esidore
Juan Fernandez
Joseph Fitzgerald
Laura Foran
Matt Geisler
Tejas Ghandi
Kenneth Gibson
Carol Gordon
Mario Grietti
Michael Guarnieri
Anthony Guerino, Jr
Lila Guillet
Susan Israel
Grace Jones
Melissa Kallan
John Komorowski
Suzanne MacDonald
Nuno Marques
Kari McCaw-Blaise
Rowena McGoldrick
Michael McMillan
Thomas McMullen
Adele Miller
Thomas & Ruth Murphy
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WIT, CT-WAGE Programs Deliver Happy Results



Shown are Class of 2011 graduates who successfully completed Charter Oak's Women In Transition (WIT) program and the College's innovative CT-WAGE program. Joining the grads for this commencement photo were, far-left, Delores Bell, Charter Oak's Coordinator of Special Programs, and President Ed Klonoski, far-right. WIT and CT-WAGE are unique initiatives designed to serve the educational needs of underserved and underemployed single and married parents.