

connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009 VOL. XXXIII NO.1



President Klonoski receives the bronze medallion, representative of the chain of office, from Astrid T. Hanzalek, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, during inauguration ceremonies held in October.

Klonoski Inauguration, Shea Lecture Were Anniversary Celebration Highlights

Hundreds were in attendance, on October 3, when Charter Oak State College celebrated a pair of milestones – the inauguration of Ed Klonoski as the College's fourth president and the celebration of the institution's 35th anniversary.

Phyllis Gutowski, Charter Oak's Dean of Faculty, presided over the inaugural ceremony that saw Astrid T. Hanzalek, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, present the new president a bronze medallion representing the chain of

office. Klonoski succeeded Dr. Merle W. Harris who served as Charter Oak president from 1990 until her retirement in January 2008.

In his address to the audience gathered at Central Connecticut State University's Torp Theatre, Klonoski noted that "the use of technology to extend learning to the learner is the latest way to integrate higher education into the lives of our students." He said that with the coming of age of the Internet, Charter Oak

continued on pg. 2

NEW LOOK FOR connections

As you peruse this issue of 'Connections,' you'll notice some subtle changes in the newsletter's graphic approach, page design and type style. Each has been tweaked for your reading ease. We hope you like our new look.

in this issue

- 2** **The President's Take**
Living with a transitioning economy
- 4** **Alum Profile**
From hay bailer to innovator
- 5** **iTunes U**
Music to our learning ears
- 6** **Atten-hut!**
Charter Oak is named a top military-friendly college
- 8** **Alumni Spotlight**
Alums share their news, achievements

THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



Welcome to 2009. I hope that despite the economic challenges, you and your family are managing.

Here at the College we have been working to ready ourselves for Connecticut's financial challenges so that we are available to assist our students with their career preparations. We recognize that for

adult students difficult economic circumstances mean increased pressure to complete those degrees. The College is carefully adjusting its strategic plan to ensure that we have the online courses and student services required for our growing population. We believe that this economy and impending baby boomer retirements make educating the existing workforce a clear priority for both government and industry, and that is what I have been reminding both legislators and corporations.

On a positive note, our annual fund raising effort for the Charter Oak State College Foundation began in November, and we are seeing a wonderful response from those who have already benefited from their Charter Oak degrees. Even in an economic downturn, our alums and friends of the College are digging deep so that we will have adequate resources for those students who need financial assistance. The generosity of our alumni clearly reflects the value they place on their Charter Oak degrees, and we deeply appreciate that support.

Even as we adjust ourselves to the economic downturn, we continue planning for the steps we believe we need to

take to keep the College moving forward. We plan, during the next session of the Connecticut General Assembly, to ask the legislature to amend the existing statute that created Charter Oak so that we can offer a master's degree. For years, we have heard our alumni ask why they cannot continue their education by pursuing a master's with Charter Oak, and we are determined to develop an online master's program as soon as we can. The Foundation has promised to support this effort, so we are working diligently to prepare for this major step.

"The generosity of our alumni clearly reflects the value they place on their Charter Oak degrees..."

And finally, we are beginning to think about ways to add more "learning objects" to our online courses. These are interactive mini-applications that empower learners to explore concepts while

the technology tracks their progress and offers them choices and second chances. Another word for the learning objects is "simulations" (think of software like SimCity™), and they are an exciting new frontier in distance education. Our mission is to provide adult learners efficient paths to degree completion, and we see simulations as another powerful means through which adults can master the concepts that lie at the heart of any academic program.

I write this at the threshold of the holiday season, and I hope that you had a restorative holiday. Let me know if there is anything that I can do for you.

Ed Klonoski
President

Klonoski Inauguration continued from pg. 1

"embraced the idea that learning is an activity, not a location," and added that "this is the theme I believe has always been at the heart of this college and will be our focus going forward."

He additionally called attention to Charter Oak's status as a non-traditional institution of higher education. "For this college, there is no separation between working and learning," he said. "There is also no belief that higher education is only for the young. Our graduates are working adults balancing family, pursuit of career and education. They are truly completing their degrees while living a life."

The inauguration ceremony was followed by another in the series of Shea Lectures which are sponsored by the Charter Oak State College Foundation. Noted pollster and political analyst, Stanley Greenberg, spoke captivantly on "The Economic Mandate for 2009: Greenberg's Dispatches from the War Room." The Shea Lecture is supported by an endowment established in 1987 upon the retirement of Bernard D. Shea, Charter Oak's first president. The endowment enables the College to sponsor programs that further the College's mission to engage students and the community in lifelong learning.

The historic day concluded with a fundraising event for the Foundation which supports needy students and the College's innovative program development.

Lead sponsors for the event were Liberty Bank, The Simsbury Bank, Sovereign Bank and The Northeast Utilities System which includes Connecticut Light & Power and Yankee Gas. Additional sponsor support was provided by AT&T, CT AFL-CIO, Cole Design Group, Fusco, ING, United Illuminating, and PCC Technology Group. 🌱

Greetings From Your Alumni Association President

Happy New Year! As we began 2009, we entered an exciting time for the Charter Oak Alumni Association.

For starters, President Klonoski has further solidified the College's commitment to its alumni community by asking Jason Jakubowski, Charter Oak's Director of Corporate and Community Development, to assume additional responsibility in the area of alumni relations. Jason will work closely with me and your Alumni Association as we continue to strengthen our efforts to promote the Charter Oak mission and spread the word, nationally, about the College's programs.

Lori Gagne Pendleton who, over the years, has dedicated herself to serving the Association in an advisory capacity, will direct her full energies to her ever-challenging position as Charter Oak Director of Admissions.

During the next several months, we will be working to build an even more robust alumni organization structured to assist alumni in the areas of networking and professional development. There are additional plans to launch a new outreach initiative that will allow alumni to

expand their ability to tell prospective students, friends and family about the outstanding opportunities Charter Oak offers adult learners.

The Alumni Association is always on the lookout for alumni interested in serving on its board and for individuals who would like to become involved in programs and events we sponsor. Please keep in mind that you don't have to be Connecticut-based to participate. Our teleconferencing capabilities will allow your participation in all meetings, regardless of your location.

“During the next several months, we will be working to build an even more robust alumni organization...”

Finally, please be aware, too, that we offer a number of other opportunities to stay connected with your alma mater and former classmates. Among them are the Alumni Discussion Board (which you can access online at CharterOak.edu/AlumniBoard) and our alumni LinkedIn Network (CharterOak.edu/LinkedInAlums).



Jason Jakubowski, Director of Corporate, Community and Alumni Development

Both sites enable you to establish constructive, long-term relationships with other Charter Oak graduates and to share new ideas and opinions on both College and non-College-related subjects.

On behalf of our Alumni Board, I wish you a happy and successful 2009.

Sincerely,

Carlo Esidore

*President, Charter Oak State College
Alumni Association*

Discovered the 'Alumni Message' Board Yet?

If you're interested in networking with fellow graduates, in seeking out online graduate programs, in locating career opportunities or posting your own career needs on a reputable Web site, then check out Charter Oak's Alumni Message Board.

Our graduates reside in every U.S. state and many foreign countries. They work in the fields of education, medicine, public safety and law enforcement, information technology, public administration, child and youth development and have achieved success in dozens of other fields

of endeavor. They share, with you, a common alma mater and the successes born of degree completion.

Now, thanks to this innovative alumni information exchange center, you can share your professional experiences and discuss career-related challenges and objectives with your peers. Connect to this valuable resource at www.CharterOak.edu/alumni. We think you'll find it interesting and productive. 🌱

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
M. Jodi Rell, Governor*

*Board for State Academic Awards
Ed Klonoski, Executive Director*

From Hay Bailer To Innovator – Charter Oak Alumnus, Matt Fleury

He began life in Manhattan and grew up in the Berkshires of Massachusetts where his first job was bailing hay at a local farm. As an adult, he became intrigued with the broadcasting industry in which and achieved notable success, transitioned to the field of corporate communications, then to urban revitalization marketing and – lo and behold – now finds himself guiding one of one America's newest and most innovative projects designed to light up young minds.

"...and it may never have come to fruition without the help of Charter Oak State College," says Matt Fleury, Charter Oak graduate and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the new Connecticut Science Center, a project dedicated to inspiring the next generation of scientists and creative thinkers.

By his own admission, Fleury was a not-all-that-inspired college student before he set out to pursue a career in broadcast news that took him from

radio stations in rural Massachusetts, to Albany, New York City and Hartford, CT.

"But I wasn't where I wanted to be," he says, "until I was encouraged to get a degree that would enhance my search for career success." That search led to Charter Oak which accepted community college credits he'd earned earlier. "It was an 18-month marathon

"Charter Oak was a key step between where I was and where I wanted to be."

to degree completion," he admits, "but worth every minute I invested. I combined my community college credits with online courses, college-level exams and portfolio assessment. It was rigorous, but very rewarding, and it was achieved economically in a relatively short period of time. Charter Oak," he was quick to point out, "was a key step between where I was and where I wanted to be."

Now Fleury, who has since earned his MBA in the University of Connecticut's Executive Program, is where he wants to be – an influencing factor in an organization that promises a remarkable experience for every visitor. "Our objective," he says, "is for every child, every adult, every family that visits the Connecticut Science Center to leave feeling they were a part of an unforgettable experience." Those results should come to fruition beginning this spring when the Science Center opens its doors to the public.

Recently elected to a six-year term on the Board of the Charter Oak State College Foundation, Fleury notes that he agreed to accept the Board position because he feels it is important to show that Charter Oak alumni are on board and ready to contribute to the future of the College and its students. "You need," he emphasizes, "to remember those who helped you become who you are." ✨

Foundation Board Names New Members



Nancy Fellingner



Matt Fleury



Christopher W. Clarke

Three prominent business figures have been newly-elected to the Charter Oak State College Foundation Board. They are Nancy Fellingner, Assistant Vice President in the Hartford, Connecticut office of Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management; Matt Fleury, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the new Connecticut Science Center; and Christopher Clarke, training

consultant and analyst for the Phoenix. Fellingner, who has worked in financial services for the past 16 years, currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Financial Planning Association of Connecticut, the Connecticut Estate and Tax Planning Council and the Planned Giving Group and is a member of the professional Advisory Committee of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Fleury traded a career in broadcasting for an administrative post with the (Hartford, CT) Capital City Economic Development Authority before affiliating with the Science Center project during the early stages of its development and advancing to his leadership post. As a Charter Oak alumnus, he has welcomed the opportunity to serve the Foundation which addresses such important areas as fund-raising, scholarship awards and social networking.

Clarke brings a wealth of financial services, product training and business process analysis to the Board. He has expressed his eagerness to contribute to the Board's efforts to execute its important mission. He spent a decade as a stock broker on Wall Street, relocating to the Hartford, CT area following the tragedy of 9/11. ✨

Enrollment Growth Prompts Facility Expansion

In 1999, Charter Oak occupied its newly-constructed and current New Britain, CT facility. Our new building was planned with anticipated expansion potential of about twenty percent. Yet, during the past ten years, the College staff has grown nearly one hundred percent in order to efficiently serve the needs of our ever-increasing student enrollment. This situation truly reflects the interest of adult learners in pursuing educational opportunity at Charter Oak.

As a result of our growth, this spring we will move our Information Technology Department and Business Office to newly-renovated quarters in Newington, CT, a short distance from our New Britain administrative building. The move will allow the College's Administrative, Academic, Admissions, Financial Aid and Marketing Departments to expand into the vacated New Britain space.

The new Newington facility will additionally house a state-of-the-art training lab and testing center to better serve our students. While these moves have been associated with growing pains, we are pleased to have endured such pain in light of the fact that our College has attracted so many new adult learners intent upon achieving their academic goals. We eagerly look forward to serving our students and alumni from our both New Britain and Newington facilities. 🌱

New Grants Bolster WIT Program

A pair of generous grants, targeted for Charter Oak's Women In Transition (WIT) program, were recently received from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the NewAlliance Foundation. The WIT initiative provides single mothers in low-paying jobs the opportunity to complete their college degrees online.

The Hartford Foundation grant will support the entry of 22 new students into the award-winning program, while the NewAlliance gift will be used to purchase new laptop computers and for computer maintenance. The WIT program provides students free use of laptops and access to the Internet...

In 2008, 51 students were enrolled in the WIT program. Twelve earned their bachelor's degrees, and two were awarded associate degrees. The remainder continue to work toward degree completion. 🌱

Charter Oak Partners With Apple iTunes U

Charter Oak State College has entered into a collaborative partnership to provide access to Apple's iTunes University. iTunes U is a dedicated area within the iTunes Store (www.itunes.com) that features free content including course lectures, language lessons and lab demonstrations. The partnership was launched in November of last year.

Users of the iTunes U service can search, download and play course content just as they do music, movies and television shows. The Charter Oak-Apple agreement gives the College the ability to add its extensive course content to the media-rich iTunes U library. Alluding to this new source of digital distribution, Charter Oak president, Ed Klonoski said, "We believe that learning is an activity, not a place. This progressive step will allow us to continue to grow the structure and delivery of our courses which will ultimately benefit students by providing rich, vivid, multi-media educational content."

According to Eddy Cue, Apple's vice president of iTunes, "The service makes it easy for anyone to access educational material from many of the country's most respected colleges and universities, Charter Oak among them."



iTunes enables students to download course material to their computers. The material, in turn, can be transferred to iPods or iPhones creating the ultimate convenience of portability.

George F. Claffey, Jr., Charter Oak's Chief Information Officer, additionally notes that the existence of a centralized place for content creation, processing and storage significantly lowers the costs for all participating schools by allowing them to readily and rapidly deploy the iTunes U technology. The system enables Charter Oak to provide and house its own multimedia content on the iTunes U network and, as a system member institution, the College can provide such content as podcasts to its enrolled student base.

Michael Meotti, Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Higher Education observes that "this innovative agreement bolsters Connecticut's already outstanding system of higher education by providing our institutions with access to a cutting-edge multimedia educational delivery system." 🌱

Aspiring Business Administrator Is Hawes Scholarship Winner

A billing coordinator employed in the health care field, and in pursuit of her Charter Oak bachelor's degree with a concentration in Business Administration, has been named winner of the Rodney and Beverly Hawes Scholarship. The scholarship, established in 2003 by Charter Oak honorary degree recipient, Rodney A. Hawes, Jr. and his wife, was recently presented to Michele Giroux who plans to complete her degree studies in 2011.

Mr. Hawes, retired chairman and CEO of Connecticut-based Life Re Corporation, is a long-time advocate

for the individual worker. He was cited by the Harvard Business School bulletin *Online* as "having established a remarkable record in business while maintaining a sterling reputation for character and integrity.

The Hawes Scholarship recognizes a Charter Oak student who has demonstrated qualities of leadership and commitment to community and is considered to possess the potential to make positive contributions within a business environment. Giroux, who learned of Charter Oak's online program from a Charter Oak graduate and co-worker, expects that her degree



Michele Giroux

will qualify her for advancement into an administrative position. 🌱

Deadline Approaching For D'Amato Graduate Studies Awards Applications

Charter Oak State College is currently accepting applications for the 2009 D'Amato Graduate Studies Award, a cash award presented annually at the College's June commencement exercises. To be eligible for award consideration, individuals must hold a Charter Oak graduate degree, must be a Connecticut resident and have been accepted into an accredited graduate program. For information about how to apply and to request an application,

please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

D'Amato Graduate Studies Award

Charter Oak State College
55 Paul J. Manafort Drive
New Britain, CT 06053-2150

The deadline for submitting the application and supporting material is March 31, 2009. 🌱

Save The Date!

Join Team Charter Oak on Saturday, May 9, for the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative's *Race In The Park*. Included are individual run and walk events for men, women and children. Register, beginning March 1, at www.ctrace.org, or call 860-827-7103 for a registration form. Registration fees will support breast cancer research. If you are geographically inaccessible and wish to support the event, send your donation to Connecticut Breast Health Initiative, Inc., PO Box 566, New Britain, CT 06051.

Charter Oak Recognized As Top Military-Friendly College

Charter Oak State College was recently named one of America's "Top Military-Friendly Colleges" by the publishers of *Military Advanced Education Magazine*. The "Top" designation was awarded by an independent panel of judges who studied programs offered to members of the military by colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Glen R. Berlin, Associate Publisher of the magazine, said in a communication to the College, "On behalf of everyone at KMI Media Group (*Military*



Advanced Education publisher), let me congratulate... the entire staff at Charter Oak State College for the inspired effort you put into making it easier for our men and women in uniform to advance their careers by enhancing their educations."

Charter Oak maintains learning partnerships with the Coast Guard Institute and National Guard Bureau and was recently selected by the U.S. Navy as a participating member in its College Program Distance Learning Partnership. 🌱

Turning To You...

Although significant change is taking place in our society, Charter Oak remains very much a part of this period of transformation by continuing to provide a superior non-traditional educational experience for adult learners.

I am fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers on the Charter Oak State College Foundation Board who work diligently to raise the funds that help support our institution's students. But your support is critical to our mission. Because you, as a Charter Oak alumnus, understand what is required for an adult student to complete a degree, I am counting on your generosity to assist the next generation of Charter Oak learners.

"I would like to thank the Charter Oak State College Foundation for making it possible for people like myself to continue earning an education. It is because of your generosity that I will be able to earn my degree and advance my career. This is very important to me, because I am...sole supporter of my household. I strive to be a positive example and show my son that one can achieve whatever they believe."

Catherine E. Knight

Your contribution to the Foundation will be used for scholarships, grants and the development of innovative programs that help keep both the College and its students on the cutting-edge of technology. These funds will help needy and/or underserved deserving students deal – in these difficult economic times – with the cost of earning the degrees that will help them enter and remain competitive in the job market.

In the midst of today's economic uncertainties, I am aware of the need to balance philanthropic goals with fiscal realities. A donation – in any amount – will be especially appreciated given the educational benefits that will flow from your gift.

"I thank you for giving me this opportunity to complete my bachelor's degree through this grant. I has been five years since I last attended school, but look forward to going to a new level in education and in life. Without these funds, it would have been a hardship for me to afford the cost of education. This is such a great opportunity."

Cheechee Bush

I hope I can count on you to celebrate the Charter Oak you know – and the impressive institution we continue to become – through your gift to the Charter Oak State College Foundation's Annual Fund or Endowment. Please mail your tax-deductible donation to the attention of *Sheila Perry-Reveron* at the College, 55 Paul J. Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT, 06053.

Thank you!



Ed Klonoski
President

"The support and guidance I received made all of the difference. I could not have completed my degree without it. I will be the first in my family to complete a degree. I am now able to say that I have accomplished two of my most important goals: securing a career and completing a degree."

Diana Reyes

alumni spotlight

1989

Judy Stebbins, who went on to earn her master's in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, recently accepted a new position as Manufacturing Manager at Comar, Inc, Buena, New Jersey.

1991

Jim Hite has earned master's degrees from the University of Bridgeport ('98) and Columbia Southern University ('08). He currently serves as Director of Safety and Security at Connecticut's Middlesex Hospital.

Daniel Michaud is another double master's degree recipient having received an MA in Special Education from Saint Joseph College ('00) and an MBA from the New York Institute of Technology ('06). He is pursuing his Ph.D. in Nonprofit Management at Capella University.

1995

Kathy Hankins, who spent the past decade in the diabetic supply business, has returned to her first career field, government finance. She has been appointed Budget and Investment Manager for the city of Naples, Florida.

Michael Morgan is Director of Business Development for the Connecticut Medical Insurance Company.

1996

Peter Abbagnaro reports that he currently serves as Support Manager in Research and Development for Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Says Peter, "I whole heartedly believe that the key to a fruitful life is through education, and Charter Oak gave me that."

1997

John Thomas DaLuz tells us that his Charter Oak degree was responsible for jump-starting his professional career. He currently commands the largest district of the Aurora, Colorado Police Department.

1999

Stephen Harper served a stint in Iraq, in 2003, as a National Guard helicopter pilot and will shortly embark on a second tour of duty there. Since his Charter Oak graduation, he earned a master's in Environmental Management and Policy from the American Military University. He is currently employed as a research scientist and, following his Iraq assignment, will continue his doctorate studies which he began last year at Walden University.

Colleen Kruger was awarded a Master of Education degree by Endicott College's Institute for Education Studies. She recently received a National Science Foundation grant to train teens in the area of Information Technology.

2000

Patricia Colonghi is a recent graduate of the University of Hartford's Masters in Nursing program and was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society for her academic achievements. She has written an article that will be published, this spring, in Nursing Management Magazine. Patricia currently serves as a nurse manager at Riverview Hospital, Middletown, Connecticut.

Josh Cook has earned his MS in Education, with an option in Online Teaching, from California State University, East Bay.

Jonathan Galaviz received his master's in Business Administration from the University of Oxford (England) on January 19. He is a partner in the firm of Globalysis Ltd, a strategy consulting firm focused on the global travel and leisure industry. He is with Globalysis' Las Vegas, Nevada office.

Mary Krotki is a sixth grade teacher in the Bridgeport, Connecticut school system. She received her MS in Education from the University of Bridgeport while maintaining a 4.0 GPM, an achievement that earned her entry into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She will receive a Sixth Year Certificate in Educational Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University in May.

Edmund K. LaSalle has earned an MA in Liberal Studies from Excelsior College and currently teaches English at Fletcher Technical Community College in Houma, Louisiana.

2001

Demian Fontanella, who earned his law degree from the University of Connecticut in May of last year and passed the state bar in October, has opened his own law practice in Bristol, CT.

Dal Jeanis has met with success as a writer. A short story he authored won first place recognition at the recent Texas Fencon IV convention. A second short story was published in the *Strange Worlds of Lunacy* comedy anthology. His debut novel, *Golen on the Run*, is slated for publication in October.

2002

Brock Baker has received an MS in Business Administration from the University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota. An 8-year law enforcement veteran, he was recently named a Special Agent, Internal Affairs, with the North Dakota Department of Interior. He will be married this spring.

Joseph M. DeAngelo earned his degree in Criminal Investigations from Denver, Colorado's Regis University. For the

past three years, he has served as Chief investigator in the Northwest Colorado District Attorney's office. He is enrolled in the doctorate program (Human Development) at Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, California.

Stephanie Galindo has authored the book *The Cat Lover's Guide to Finding Your Own Home*. The book, according to Stephanie, is the only veterinarian and realtor-approved home buying guide for cat lovers. She has also contributed a number of articles to a variety of pet oriented publications.

Robin Yuran is currently in her third semester in the MFA creative writing program at Goddard College, Plainfield, VT. She has received a \$5000 grant from the Artist and Writers' Education and Development Foundation to fund the publication of her second collection of verse entitled *Tales Told by An Idiot*.

2003

Randall Orner, who earned a graduate certificate in Healthcare Risk Management in 2007 from the University of Florida, has been accepted into that institution's Master of Science in Pharmacy-Patient Safety and Risk Management program.

2004

Lisa Finan has completed her MA in Counseling, with a focus in Human Services, at the University of Bridgeport. She currently serves as a Case Manager with Re-Entry Assisted Community Living in Danbury, CT. She and her husband recently purchased their first home.

Denise Larson, after working for several years as a newspaper editor, now freelances as a copy editor and writes, independently, on subjects covering the areas of history and genealogy. She is author of *Companions of Champlain: Founding Families of Quebec, 1006-1635*. The book celebrates the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec, Canada.

Jane Renee Anastasia (Adamo)

Martinez is a Project Accountant for Diede Construction in Lodi, California. She informs us that *"my husband and I gave birth to a beautiful daughter in August, 2006, and I consider it my greatest achievement in life, to date."*

Marilyn McDonald has been employed at Beacon Light Behavioral Health in Towanda, Pennsylvania since her Charter Oak graduation. She recently began pursuit of her master's in Education at the American Public University.

2005

Christopher Channing has been appointed Civil Records Supervisor in the Second Judicial District, Saint Paul, Minnesota. He has also begun pursuit of a master's in Public Administration at the Hamline University School of Business.

Mihaela Diana Dima earned her MS in Education from the University of Bridgeport and has received her Connecticut teaching certification.

Peter Dumais writes that he recently began work as the City Engineer for Arkadelphia, Arizona. *"The degree I earned at Charter Oak was the key that opened the door to my present position,"* says Peter.

Carlo Esidore has completed his master's course work at Plymouth State University with a 3.90 GPA. The University has also awarded him its Graduate Studies in Business certificate in The Human Side of Enterprise. Carlo is president of the Charter Oak Alumni Association.

The Reverend Amy Hollis received her Master of Divinity Degree from Andover Newton Theological School in May of 2008. She currently serves as Associate Minister at West Hartford, Connecticut's First Baptist Church.

Essodjolo Achille Kodom earned a master's in Structural Engineering from North Carolina A&T State University and has been employed as a structural engineer in the Dallas office of Camp, Dressler & McKee since 2007.

Mark S. Moore is currently pursuing a master's in Leadership – with an emphasis in Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Management – at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona and plans to go on to earn his Ph.D. Mark is closing in on 30 years of active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard and will retire from the service next year. Says Mark, *"I owe so much to Charter Oak and the leadership you have provided in blazing the trail for adult learners."*

Brenda Page has completed her JD at Florida Coastal School of Law and was recently sworn in to the Texas Bar. She studied online for her Charter Oak bachelor's degree while living on a boat and traveling the Intracoastal Waterway which extends along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Rick Pendzick graduated from the Mercy College Physician Assistant program with a 3.4 GPA and now serves as a certified Orthopaedic Physician Assistant in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, where he makes his home with his wife and baby son.

Jared Rozborski has been promoted to Operations Manager for Connecticut-based W. Media North America. *"Charter Oak has helped me in more ways than I ever thought possible,"* he says.

Sangeeta (Karki) Thapa, who came to Charter Oak as an international student, has received her master's in Communication from the University of Hartford. She plans to pursue her doctorate in Communications this fall at the University of Connecticut.

2006

John Kennedy has been accepted into the graduate program at Southern Connecticut State University, with a focus on History. He serves as a 7th and 8th grade mathematics teacher at New Haven, Connecticut's East Rock Global Magnet School. John notes that discovering a career he loves *"would not have been possible without the flexibility Charter Oak gave me."*

continued on pg. 10

Kathryn Lucas has earned her MA in Humanities, with a History concentration, from California State University. She currently resides in Armada, Michigan.

Keesha M. Mayes began pursuit of her MBA last September at Georgia's South University.

Jason W. Murphy, an Oklahoma State Representative, was appointed Chairman of the House of Representative's Standing Committee on Modernization. In that position, he will lead the effort to streamline state government through the application of better practices and technology.

Midge Pych expects to receive her master's in Early Childhood Education from Central Connecticut State University this May. The Director of the East Windsor (CT) Family Resource Center at Broad Brook Elementary School, she has also earned both the Connecticut Director's Credential and Credential in After School Education from Charter Oak.

Mark Sloan has earned his master's degree in Special Education from Grand Canyon University and has entered that institution's doctorate program. He is now teaching in Virginia's Scott County school system.

Wendy Trigg informs us that she is now teaching in Pearland, Texas.

Jeff Sorrell has been a busy individual since his Charter Oak graduation. He completed his MBA at Plymouth State University, obtained an Executive Leadership certificate at eCornell and

earned a PMP certificate from the Project Management Institute. He was recently promoted at Aetna, Inc. within that company's Technology Management Services Infrastructure Operations System. Jeff has also been elected Membership Training Staff Officer in his U.S. Coast Guard Auxilliary unit and is in the process of fulfilling his National Ski Patrol Emergency Care medical requirements.

Bill Whitaker has received his master's degree from Adelphi University and plans to pursue a career as a physical education teacher. "At one point in my life," Bill tells us, "I thought school was not an option anymore. The love of my family and the educational experience I received at Charter Oak set me on a new path and a wonderful journey."

2007

Jennifer Fernandez completed her master's degree in elementary Education at the University of Bridgeport and is in the process of completing her Connecticut Teacher's Certification.

Laura Fontaine has returned to the field of Nursing. The grandmother of twin boys expects to become a grandma again, this summer. She notes that her online Charter Oak experience was enriching and allowed her to meet many new friends and mentors.

Marcia Hawk is working on her MA in Educational Administration at the University of South Dakota Online. She tells us that her positive Charter Oak experience became the catalyst for her pursuit of a career in higher education.

Heather Hansen O'Neill works with Progressive Image, a Bethel, Connecticut-based company that assists businesses and individuals in enhancing their images through improved customer service skills and executive training.

Keith Roberts has received his MBA from American InterContinental University. At the urging of the local President-elect Obama team, he successfully ran for elected office and is now a Committeeman in Broward County, Florida.

Amanda Touchy has completed the Texas Alternative Certification program and is teaching Pre-kindergarten through fourth grade in the El Paso Independent School District.

Kerby Ward currently serves as a guidance counselor at Tesoro (California) High School and has begun his master's studies, online, at California State University at Dominguez Hills.

2008

Daniel Daley has been employed as a Project Manager for Information Technology at Danbury (CT) Hospital and has been accepted into the Project Management MBA program at New England College.

Kathleen Riccio has earned her certification in Addictions Counseling and was recently promoted to Coordinator, Intensive Out-Patient Programs, at Birmingham Group Health Services, Ansonia, CT. 🌱

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 calbert@charteroak.edu.

Your name and address _____

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My news _____

E-Mail Helps Us Stay In Touch



Your e-mail address allows us to share Charter Oak news with you *wherever* you are.

Charter Oak currently maintains e-mail addresses for a majority of its more than 10,000 alumni. E-mail allows us to communicate news of interest about the college and its graduates with greater frequency than we are able to through this twice-a-year *Connections* newsletter. 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 and would like to share it with us, please send your new information to calbert@charteroak.edu. We'd also like to update USPS addresses and phone numbers that may have recently changed. We look forward to hearing from you. 🌱

Contribution

A contribution made to Charter Oak's Annual Fund by *Alden Mead* was inadvertently left out of the list of Acorn Circle donors in the last issue of *Connections*. Mr. Mead's generous donation is most appreciated. To learn more about giving to the Annual Fund or Endowment, contact Sheila Perry-Reveron at **860-832-3879** or visit www.charteroak.edu/Foundation. 🌱

Spring Marketing Campaign Contributes to Enrollment Increase

Charter Oak recently completed an integrated marketing campaign designed to capture the attention of working adults in quest of degree completion and individuals interested in investigating the 'feel' of online learning. The marketing thrust appears to have been a significant contributor to an increase in the number of degree-seeking students and learners not in degree programs who have enrolled in online courses for the spring term. As of the start of the term, enrollments reflected a 17% increase as compared to the same period a year ago.

The marketing campaign, which was initiated in early December and continued through the spring registration period, included 60-second radio commercials, print ads and online advertising that focused on two Charter Oak alumni – businessman,

Jeff Sorrell, and case manager, Marcia Anderson-Esson – both of whom have achieved professional success in their respective fields. They appeared in the broadcast and newspaper ad efforts and may currently be seen promoting the college in video segments on the Charter Oak Web site. (Go to www.charteroak.edu and click on the video start button that appears in the upper right hand corner of the page.) 🌱

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Businessman, Jeff Sorrell
Charter Oak Graduate

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Use them to complete your Bachelor's Degree ONLINE at Connecticut's only public online college.

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"It's really going to advance your career."
Case Manager, Marcia Anderson-Esson
Charter Oak Graduate

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Alumni, Jeff Sorrell, a prominent business man, and Marcia Anderson-Esson, a successful case manager, were the focus of the Charter Oak ad campaign.

IN MEMORIAM Arthur "Bud" L. Herrmann, Ph.D. 1926 – 2008

Charter Oak State College sadly announces the passing of Arthur "Bud" L. Herrmann, a stalwart educator and valued member of the College's Foundation Board. As a Board member, Dr. Herrmann contributed his time and expertise to aid in the development and execution of programs that provide scholarships and grants to Charter Oak students and advance the development of



innovative educational programs at the College. He was Professor of Finance and Chairman of the Finance Department at the University of Hartford for many years and received that institution's Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching. He was named Professor emeritus by the University upon his retirement. His wisdom and dedication will be sorely missed. 🌱



Board for State Academic Awards

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