

connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2012 VOL. XXXVI NO. 2



2012 graduate Angela Klonoski with her husband, Charter Oak State College President Ed Klonoski.



(L-R) Alpha Sigma Lambda member Shawn Benoit; Charter Oak Associate Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Jeff Crouch; commencement student speaker Tara Keating; and Charter Oak's Director of Academic Services, Linda Larkin.

2012 Commencement Ceremony Held on June 3

THEME WAS "HEROES"

Five hundred and twenty four members of the Class of 2012 received degrees during Charter Oak State College's commencement ceremony held on Sunday, June 3, in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. One hundred and eighty seven enthusiastic graduates, wearing environmentally-friendly caps and gowns, were in attendance. A live webcast of the ceremony was hosted on CharterOak.edu.

An honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, was presented to Doris G. Cassidy, a founder of

Charter Oak State College and current Assistant Director of Academic Programs. Ms. Cassidy served as the first Chair for the Board for State Academic Awards, then as Vice-Chair and Secretary between 1973 and 1984. When the Charter Oak State College Foundation was created, she served as the first Foundation President and then as Executive Director from 1980-1995.

Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski, addressed the graduates. The student speaker was Tara M. Keating, who served as Student Representative and as an officer of the Student Association.

[continued on pg. 3](#)

Board of Regents Approves Health Information Management Major at Charter Oak

This May, the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education approved Charter Oak State College's first major – an online bachelor's degree completion program in Health Information Management. The program now goes to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for approval.

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THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



As I write this in June, I've just returned from a panel presentation in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Lumina and Gates Foundations. They asked me to be part of a small panel of institutions that are working to offer students a competency-based approach to higher education. Specifically, Lumina and Gates

are actively working to lower the cost of higher education by exploring alternative approaches to traditional college courses. Their theory is that working adults have various skills and competencies that could be assessed for college credit. Furthermore, they believe that adult students can learn independently using a variety of free or low-cost online courseware.

Charter Oak was placed in the mix because we have been working to provide such competency-based approaches to higher education for our entire 40-year history. Lumina matched several new programs with our longstanding efforts to show the policy community in D.C. that competency-based learning is both tested and growing.

I spent my time talking about our Portfolio, Testing, and CCAP programs. The audience, mostly congressional staffers and D.C. organizations, was surprised and pleased to learn that we regularly graduate students who have completed a bachelor's degree through testing for a little as \$8,000. They were also amazed to learn that through our CCAP program we can assess workplace learning (e.g. the State Police Academy or the Carpenters Union training program) and grant college credit for these robust training experiences.

"The good news for Charter Oak is that the next big thing (in higher education) is something we have been working at for our entire history."

I explained that our Public Safety program attracts police and fire department employees because we value their training and help them use it as part of their degree program. This approach speeds up their degree attainment and lowers the cost. I think Lumina was very attracted to this approach.

All the institutional presenters were offering models for degree attainment that shortened the time frame and offered more flexible curricula (through time shifting, online offerings, and prior learning assessment). Each institution is working to lower the cost, shorten the time, and validate what students know. I believe that this is the next big thing in higher

education as the public pressure to lower costs increases. The good news for Charter Oak is that the next big thing is something we have been working at for our entire history.

As always, I value your input as we make our plans. If you have done an analysis of the cost of your Charter Oak degree or the savings you attained from using our approaches, I would love to hear from you. Your experience is the sort of "real world" evidence that would help me convince organizations like the Lumina and Gates Foundations that Charter Oak's story and programs are valuable assets in this shift in higher education. Please email me at eklonoski@charteroak.edu.

Ed Klonoski
President

"Board of Regents" continued from pg. 1

Developed by licensed practitioners and experts in the field, the B.S. in Health Information Management prepares graduates to sit for the RHIA (Registered Health Information Administrator) licensure exam. Students will graduate from this online program equipped with the skills to develop, maintain and enforce organizational policies, procedures and guidelines for the management of health information and health information technology systems, as well as to manage, maintain, update, modify and purge health care data

in accordance with organizational policies and state-specific Statute of Limitations. The curriculum, which was developed in response to a growing demand in the field, includes ICD-10-CM and CPT-4 coding schemes for reimbursement of health care services.

The College made the decision to construct its first full major in the field of health care management after considerable market research. "We chose to make this program our highest priority because we believe

that there are, and will continue to be, numerous jobs that will require the combination of health care knowledge and technology expertise as the health care industry moves its patient data into digital systems that permit customers access to their own information," Charter Oak President Ed Klonoski said. "We believe that this work will revolutionize health care and that our graduates will be at the forefront of this important work."

For more information about this new program, please visit charteroak.edu. 🌱

Greetings From Your Alumni Association!

Congratulations

COSC 2012 graduates!

Welcome to the status of Charter Oak alumni. As alumni, you are eligible to join the Charter Oak State College Alumni Association to continue networking with fellow alumni past and present and to make a difference in the lives of prospective Charter Oak students.

As an Alumni Association member you can take advantage of professional and social opportunities; network to further your education and careers; and advance the reputation of your alma mater to support Charter Oak's educational goals by sharing your legacy experience at COSC.

The annual Alumni Association membership fee is only \$15 a year or a one-time fee of \$150 for a lifetime membership. To read more about your COSC alumni community and sign up electronically please visit the COSC

Alumni Association website at <http://www.charteroak.edu/Alumni/> and click the Membership box at the top of the page. We will mail a membership package to you.

In addition to joining the Alumni Association, we hope you will strongly consider becoming an alumni "ambassador" for Charter Oak. Ambassadors fill a vital role of representing Charter Oak at events across the country, serving as contacts for prospective students, and introducing us to contacts at their employers. While not every ambassador performs every role, it is a way to help recruit others to Charter Oak through whatever means you are most comfortable.

Please stay connected with us. We are constantly in the process of updating our database with all of your current addresses, emails and phone numbers and we've developed a system to allow us to expand our capacity to

email you more information. We hope that all of our new (and not-so-new) alumni will take a minute to update your contact information. If you have not already given us your permanent contact information and want to remain in touch with us, please send it to: <http://www.charteroak.edu/alumni/update.cfm>.

Help us and other alumni to keep in touch with you so we may continue to share our experiences and the benefits of a Charter Oak degree!

Cordially,

Lisa Wildman

*President, Charter Oak State College
Alumni Association*

Nancy Taylor

*Assistant Director of Corporate
Recruitment and Alumni Relations* 🌱

"2012 Commencement Ceremony" continued from pg. 1

The ceremony was webcast to graduates across the country who were unable to attend in person.

In his remarks, President Klonoski congratulated the graduates for taking on the challenge of completing their degree work while also handling the responsibilities of work and family.

"Charter Oak grads are here because they decided to finish their degree. They started something, it got interrupted, and they were determined to make that dream come true," he said. "We live in an age where such quiet quests are not celebrated. Instead, we celebrate overnight sensations, teenage millionaires, American idols, reality TV survivors, and stupid pet tricks. But what we are here to celebrate today is a group of people who made a commitment to their education, and stuck to that goal through family emergencies,

computer problems, financial setbacks, and bad weather.

"You are heroic because you refused to give up, refused to quit, refused to quietly abandon your dream. Like Odysseus, you may have taken a long time, but today you have made it home," he said.

Shirley Adams, Provost of Charter Oak State College, shared some interesting facts about the Class of 2012, including the fact that 65% were women; graduates ranged in age from 19 to 68; 65% were from Connecticut; graduates hailed from 38 states and 5 countries; and Angela Klonoski, the wife of President Ed Klonoski, was a member of the graduating class!

Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance were presented to Warren H. Hyatt, Jr. and Sharon L. Wood.

A big congratulations to the Class of 2012! 🌱

connections

**SUMMER/FALL 2012
VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 2**

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

 **CharterOakSM
STATE COLLEGE**

Degrees Without Boundaries

Amanda Savio Guay, Editor

*State of Connecticut
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor*

*Board of Regents
Dr. Robert A. Kennedy, President*

*Charter Oak State College
Ed Klonoski, President*

alumni profile

Meet
Lisa Vincent, '08



Lisa Vincent and her daughter

As a recently-divorced mother, Lisa Vincent knew she had to earn her degree to provide a good life for herself and her children. In addition, her experiences as a foster and adoptive parent inspired a passionate commitment to child welfare, and she wanted a career that reflected that passion.

Now Lisa is an attorney with her own practice in Torrington, CT, having earned her juris doctor degree, cum laude, from Quinnipiac University School of Law last May and been admitted to the Connecticut Bar in November. She specializes in special education law, school discipline, and bullying.

Lisa chose Charter Oak State College for its reputation as a well-respected, accredited institution and the opportunity to gain credit for the life and career experiences she had had thus far. Online courses were crucial because she could not leave her children at home to attend class. "I certainly feel I worked hard to earn my degree, but being able to do most of that work at home on my own time was extremely valuable," said Lisa, who earned her Associate degree from Northwestern Connecticut Community College in 1995. "Without that opportunity I would not be where I am today."

As a full-time traditional student for the first time since high school, Lisa found law school to be challenging in more ways than one. She had two pre-teen children at home, and her mother was diagnosed with cancer, and passed away shortly after. Even with those additional stressors, she stuck to her goals and immersed herself in law school life, joining various clubs and groups. She represented Quinnipiac in several national competitions for law students.

"I loved law school," said Lisa, who was named a Faculty Fellow Scholar at Quinnipiac. "It was most certainly an academic challenge, but I made a decision to do it all the way or not at all. And I studied, often early in the morning and late into the night. Law school is not for the faint of heart."

Her hard work paid off. She was named the 2011 National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Student of the Year, and also received awards for excellence in clinical work, excellence in oral advocacy, and service to the community.

Opening her own practice suited her entrepreneurial spirit, and allows her to commit her career to making a difference in the lives of children.

"I have a child who has a learning disability, and I have devoted my life to working with people with disabilities of all types. So special education felt like a good fit," she said. "As for bullying and school discipline, I learned about these things while working for Connecticut Legal Services as an intern. I saw some sad cases come through those doors and there are parents who really don't know how to get their child the help they need. If I can help a parent get needed help for their child, I feel good about that."

Lisa believes that her experience at Charter Oak was critical in helping her achieve her career goal. "Charter Oak

proved to be an outstanding choice," she said. "The courses were taught by highly-qualified professionals who held students to high academic standards.

"There are many people who are capable of earning a degree who do not have the ability to enroll in a traditional college or university program for one reason or another. Without Charter Oak, those people would be out of luck or stuck with a non-accredited program. I would have been one of those people. I am thankful Charter Oak was there for me."

(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 email: nataylor@charteroak.edu, or by telephone: 860-832-3863). 🌱

Regents' Honor Awards



Photo credit: Sue Israel

Charter Oak alums Elizabeth Horton Sheff and Jack M. Tom received Regents' Honor Awards for Graduate Students at the Graduate Research/Creativity Symposium at the University of Hartford this spring.

Elizabeth Horton Sheff earned a Master of Education in Educational Technology from University of Hartford's College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, and Jack Tom earned a Master of Fine Arts in Illustration from the University's Hartford Art School.

Congratulations to both for their special recognition!

Another Fabulous Alumni Spring Social

On Friday, May 11, 50 Charter Oak alumni, their spouses and staff members gathered at the Gelston House restaurant in East Haddam, CT for the annual fun-filled Alumni Association Spring Social. The guests were treated to a perfect sunset along the Connecticut River as they dined and chatted with their fellow alums. After dinner, everyone walked next door to the historic Goodspeed Opera House and was treated to the classic musical comedy, *Mame*.

All of the Charter Oak alumni were thrilled to meet their fellow alums and learn more about each other. Everyone agreed they were sorry to see the evening end. The photos say it all!

We will soon begin the planning for next year's Spring Social. Please contact Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Corporate Recruitment, at nataylor@charteroak.edu if you have suggestions for the Spring Social or other activities you would like to see the Alumni Association consider. 🌱



(L-R) Carolyn Hebert, Director of Marketing, Charter Oak State College; Melinda Schoen (2005) VP for Administration, Masonicare; Monica Jensen (2004) Nurse Clinical Instructor, Department of Children and Families; Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations, Charter Oak State College.



(L-R) Colleen Kruger (1999) and Lori Pendleton, Director of Enrollment Services for Charter Oak State College.



(L-R) Angela Klonoski (2012); Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College; Sherriann Martin; and Patrick Martin (2009), IT Director for The Village for Families and Children.

The Changing of the Guard

After five years as President of the Charter Oak State College Alumni Association, **Carlo Esidore** has decided to "retire" his official duties. He plans to continue his work with Charter Oak serving in various roles as ambassador for the College at events. He also serves on the Charter Oak Foundation Board and will continue to be a member of the Alumni Association Board. We are extremely thankful to Carlo for his years of dedicated service to the Alumni Association.

In addition, **Carolyn Brown** has decided to retire her pen and pad as Secretary of the Alumni Association but will also continue to serve on the Board. We also thank Carolyn for her years of dedicated service to the Board.

We are most grateful that **Marcia Anderson-Esson** will continue her excellent leadership as the Treasurer of the Board as she has for so many years. Marcia's dedication to the College is impressive as evidenced by the D'Amato Award that she received this year.

We are thrilled to welcome several new members in leadership positions on the Alumni Association Board.

Lisa Wildman (2010) will become the new President of the Board, moving up from serving as Vice President for the past two years. Lisa lives in Oxford, CT and works for IBM.

Chris May (2011) is taking over the Vice President role that Lisa is vacating. Chris lives in Windsor, CT and works for ING.

Recent graduate **Tara Keating (2012)** will serve as the Board's new Secretary. Tara lives in Haddam, CT and works for the CT Education and Finance Authority.

All four of the Officers, along with the rest of the Alumni Association Board, have big plans for this year and welcome more new faces on the Board. We are looking for members from all over the country so please contact Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations at nataylor@charteroak.edu if you have a desire to serve in any capacity as a Charter Oak alum. 🌱

Charter Oak Students Honored at College Academic Day

Charter Oak graduates Sharon Wood and Warren Hyatt were two of 21 students honored on April 18 by the Connecticut General Assembly during the 15th Annual College Academic Day celebration at the State Capitol. The students each represented a campus of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (ConnSCU) system. Students were selected by their school leaders based on merit and scholastic achievement and extra-curricular involvement.

Each year on College Academic Day, state lawmakers honor outstanding students from each of Connecticut's public and private universities.

The students received an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly, were formally introduced during session and were honored at a State Capitol reception. Sponsors of the event included State

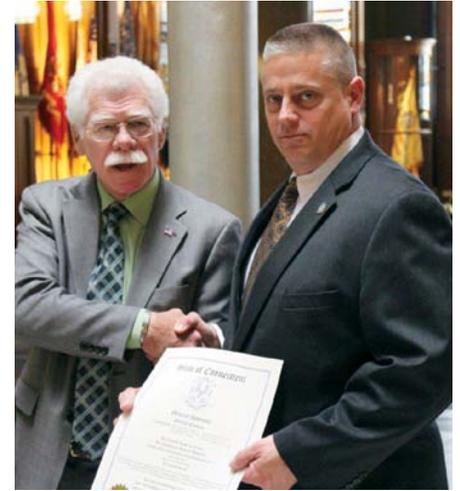
Representatives Richard F. Roy (119th District), Pamela Z. Sawyer (55th District), and Roberta B. Willis (64th District).

"Academic Day honorees represent the best and the brightest in all

of Connecticut's colleges and universities. Each year we take the time to shine a light on the message that student honorees of Academic Day will be Connecticut's future leaders," Rep. Roy said. 🌱



State Representative Richard Roy with Charter Oak alum Sharon Wood.



Representative Roy with Charter Oak alum Warren Hyatt.

Charter Oak Awards Honorary Degree to Doris G. Cassidy



Doris Cassidy speaking at the 2012 commencement ceremony, where she told graduates of their degrees, "brag about it!"

Each year, the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education and Charter Oak State College award an honorary degree to an individual or individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the College and to local, national and/or international communities and who have influenced advances within their own professional fields. At the June 3 commencement ceremony, the Board of Regents and the College awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, to one of Charter Oak State College's founders, Doris G. Cassidy.

Ms. Cassidy has been an integral part of the College since its beginning. She was a member of the Task Force on External Degrees and Alternate Approaches to Higher Education for

the State of Connecticut that created the College, and served as President of the American Association of University Women of Connecticut from 1969-1974. This Association helped create the argument for the mission of the College.

When the College was established by the legislature in 1973, Ms. Cassidy served as the first Chair for the Board for State Academic Awards, then as Vice-Chair and Secretary between 1973 and 1984. When the Charter Oak State College Foundation was created, she served as the first Foundation President and then as Executive Director from 1980-1995.

In addition, Ms. Cassidy served on the CT Board of Governors Standing Advisory Committee for 16 years. She was President of the Stamford

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YWCA from 1971-1972, and she has an extensive history in community service.

As an academic advisor for over 25 years, she has assisted more of the College's 12,000 graduates in earning their bachelor's degree than anyone else.

In 1998, The Board for State Academic Awards established an award in the name of Ms. Cassidy in recognition of her lifelong commitment to adult education and her commitment to the College. The Doris G. Cassidy Award is given each year to one or more graduates who have achieved

excellence in learning by earning credits through multiple methods and thereby exemplifying the essence of the Charter Oak mission.

As Assistant Director of Academic Programs, Ms. Cassidy has played an instrumental role in the success of Charter Oak State College since the very beginning.

"Doris is one of the mothers of Charter Oak State College," said Charter Oak President Ed Klonoski. "No one has had a larger role in creating, shaping, and growing this College than Doris." 🌿

Get Your Charter Oak Class Ring

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!



Women in Transition Program Celebrates 12 Years

Charter Oak State College's Women In Transition (WIT) program will celebrate its 12th anniversary this fall. In its first year, the program was comprised of two students; since then, the WIT program has served 167 students, graduating 96 of them (71 bachelor degrees and 40 associate degrees, with some women earning both).

Positive impact from the graduates' experience at Charter Oak has been felt in both their work and home lives. Several graduates of the WIT program have gone on to earn their master's degrees, and many have gone on to take advantage of improved job opportunities and promotions. In addition, WIT students

who are also mothers have reported an improvement in their children's grades.

The WIT program is designed to help underserved and low-income mothers enrich their lives and, in turn, the lives of their children by completing their college degrees online. Since its inception, this program has consistently succeeded in strengthening the ability of single mothers to support themselves and their families and in helping WIT graduates become productive members of Connecticut's workforce.

This unique initiative provides cost-free laptop computers and Internet access that allows participating students to pursue degree completion from the comfort of their homes while maintaining commitments to both their children and their jobs. The program is funded by foundation grants and individual donations.

Congratulations to the 2012 WIT graduates! 🌿



Charter Oak Coordinator of Special Programs, Delores Bell (far left) and Special Programs Clerical Assistant Janice Silva (far right) with Class of 2012 WIT graduates.

alumni spotlight

1983

Dr. Bradford Howard, Jr., who, after graduating from Charter Oak, went on to earn his master's degree in Theology and his doctorate in Ministry from North Carolina College of Theology, released a new gospel CD in April. He is now working as a music talent scout/songwriter and promoter at All Business Consulting LLC in Hartford, CT. He recently participated in the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission's annual A Work in Progress Event in celebration of Black History Month. The event was held in the State Capitol/Legislative Office Building in February.

1989

Charter Oak grad *Valerie Curry* graduated from Murray State University with a Master of Science in Human development and Leadership. She plans to further her graduate education in doctoral studies for the fall semester of 2012.

1993

Tom O'Brien recently earned his M.S.W. from Salem State University with a 4.0 GPA.

1997

Albert W.A. Schmid recently published another book, *The Beverage Manager's Guide to Wines, Beers and Spirits* with co-author John Laloganes. Schmid was named the 2011 Sommelier of the Year by the International Association of Culinary Professionals, and Laloganes was given the same title in 2012. Schmid also recently submitted the manuscript for *The Old Fashioned Whiskey Cocktail Book* (University Press of Kentucky), with plans for it to be released in 2013.

1999

Charter Oak grad *Elizabeth Matthis* is currently living in Germany where she runs a successful multifaceted consulting business: teaching English, working as a translator, providing relocation assistance (for Germans moving to the United States or Americans moving to Germany) and running intercultural communication workshops, especially in the computer field. She says she couldn't have done it without her BA from Charter Oak!

2005

Forrest Adams graduated from Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN, in December, 2011 with a M.S. in Technical Communications. His study emphasis was on e-learning development. He is currently employed in the global education division at Ecolab, Inc. (NYSE: ECL).

2006

Keith H. Ford graduated from Northwestern California University School of Law as a Juris Doctor in July 2011, and sat for the California Bar exam in February 2012. All secondary educational achievements, beginning in 1998, have been through correspondence, distance, online, or otherwise non-traditional means, and he continued to work full-time throughout as a Registered Nurse for over 25 years.

Lincoln Hale graduated with a Master of Theological Studies in Biblical Interpretation in June, and was recently accepted into the History of Christianity and Religions of North America Ph.D. program at Claremont Graduate University in California.

Steve Kelleher was recently promoted to Assistant Chief of Field Investigations for the State of New Jersey's Department of the Treasury.

Joan Tobin recently authored a book called "Pavlov's Cats and Thirty Other Short Takes from Mensa Monthlies," a novelty collection of a variety of offerings, including observations on the passing scene, a few pieces about words and language, some personal experiences, some serious essays, and some light ones. It is published by RoseDog Books.

2007

Bill Pilon graduated in May from Georgia State University with an MBA in Business Analysis. He currently works at Cox Media Group as a research analyst and lives in Roswell, GA.

2008

Cathy Topping recently completed her MA degree in American Studies at Trinity College, and will be teaching a class at Tunxis Community College in the fall.

Lisa Vincent earned a juris doctor degree, cum laude, from Quinnipiac University School of Law in May 2011. She was honored to be named the 2011 National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Student of the Year. She also received awards for excellence in clinical work, excellence in oral advocacy, and service to the community. She was admitted to the Connecticut Bar on November 7, 2011 and has opened her own practice in Torrington, CT, specializing in special education law, school discipline and bullying.

2009

Jenny Levinson, a graduate of Charter Oak's ECE ARC program, is a Pre-K teacher at the Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School in Bloomfield, CT. Her classroom was filmed to be part of a Connecticut Public Television program called "Great Expectations: Raising Educational Achievement," which is

a documentary about closing the achievement gap in Connecticut that aired in February. Her school was part of a segment that addressed high quality early childhood education programs as an essential component to closing the achievement gap.

2010

Jason Shearer recently earned an MBA and graduated in the top 10% of his class at the University of Utah. He will begin pursuing a second master's degree this fall, this time at Columbia University, in the field of Computer Science. He also has been promoted to sourcing project manager at L-3 Communications in Salt Lake City, Utah.

2011

Carlton Bryan recently earned his MBA with specialization in human resource management from Ashford University. 🌱

Marcia Anderson-Esson is Chosen as D'Amato Recipient

Congratulations to Marcia Anderson-Esson, the 2012 recipient of the D'Amato Award. Marcia has been a registered nurse for 32 years. She obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree with a concentration in Health Studies from Charter Oak State College in 1993. Marcia has worked in numerous areas of medical care, and for the past 12 years has worked as a Nurse Case Manager for an insurance company. Marcia is currently enrolled at the University of Alabama where she is working toward her master's degree in nursing and expects to graduate later this year.

Marcia has been a dedicated member of the Charter Oak Alumni Association Board for 18 years and has served as

Treasurer for the past several years. She often participates in recruiting events for Charter Oak and is always happy to tell others in the health field about what a Charter Oak degree can do for them. In 2011 Marcia was a sponsor of the College's Shea Lecture.

Marcia is also involved with the Center for Urban Research and Training, helping adults learn basic English and math skills, and she is also a member of the Case Management Society of America and serves as Vice President for the Connecticut Chapter. In her spare time, Marcia is an artist and recently donated one of her paintings, "From a Distance" to Charter Oak State College to hang in the conference room.



The D'Amato Graduate Studies Award recognizes a Connecticut Charter Oak State College graduate who is continuing his or her education. The criteria for the award include academic promise, motivation and contributions to community life. Clearly Marcia exemplifies the spirit of this award! 🌱

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 email nataylor@charteroak.edu.

Your name and address _____

Email address _____ Class of _____

My news _____

Eight 2012 Graduates Presented with Doris Cassiday Award

The Doris G. Cassiday Award is given to those graduates of Charter Oak 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. These options include distance learning, testing, portfolio assessment, contract learning, military service school courses 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 longstanding commitment to higher education. She currently serves as Assistant Director of Academic Programs at the College and as an academic counselor.

2012 Doris G. Cassiday Award recipients included:

Linda Marie Benedict, Bethel, CT
Glenn Flynn, Fair Lawn, NJ
Timothy M. McClellan, Carrollton, VA
Glenn Michael Buonanducci, Broad Brook, CT
Valerie Jane Howe, Forestville, CT

Alicia C. York, Greenfield, WI
Keith Darnell Dorsey, Laguna Niguel, CA
Lea Lemay, Tolland, CT

Congratulations! 🌿



Doris Cassiday presenting the Cassiday Award at the 2012 commencement ceremony.

Foundation Distributes \$20,000 in Scholarship Awards and \$2,500 in Technology Grants

Sixty-three Charter Oak students benefited from \$20,000 in scholarship awards that were presented during a 12-month period from 2011 through 2012. In addition, five Charter Oak students received a grant to financially assist them in the purchase of a prescribed list of technology supporting online learning.

These scholarships and grants were awarded by the Charter Oak State College Foundation, whose Board of Directors includes 15 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.

The Charter Oak State College Foundation provides scholarships and other financial support to remove the financial barriers that often prevent the adult learner from pursuing and completing higher education. We look to the Charter Oak State College alumni and our friends to help us to make the dream of higher education a reality and the hope of a better future possible. Your contributions will have a lifetime effect on the students and their families.

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 Angela Chapman at 860-515-3889 to discuss your bequest, or please consider conveniently making a donation online at <http://coscf.org/ways-to-give>. We need your help and no matter what the size, each gift directly impacts our students. 🌿

**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 support.**

THANK YOU DONORS

The Charter Oak State College Foundation and the College thank our donors for their gracious gifts. Your generosity continues to help countless students transform their lives, often beyond what they ever thought was possible. Whether you are a long-time supporter or a first-time giver, we could not do it without you. The list of donors below includes those who have made a contribution to the Annual Fund or Endowment between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. The names with asterisks have given for the past five fiscal years. To learn more about the Foundation and giving opportunities, please visit the Foundation website at www.coscf.org or contact Angela Chapman by phone 860-515-3889 or email achapman@charteroak.edu.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$500 and above

Shirley Adams*
James T. Banks
Doris Cassidy*
George & Maria Claffey*
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Greenfield, WI Siblings Graduate and Perform National Anthem Together at 2012 Commencement

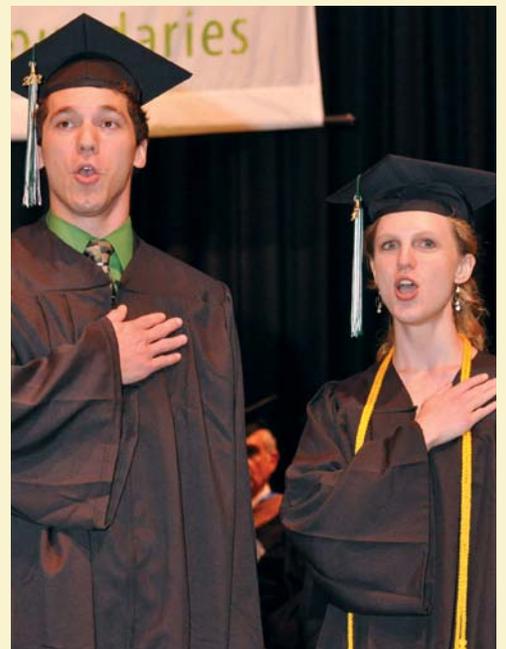
Class of 2012 graduates Joel and Alicia York, siblings from Greenfield, WI, performed the National Anthem and graduated together at the College's commencement ceremony on June 3.

Earning a degree from Charter Oak has become a York family tradition. Joel, 22, and Alicia, 25, are the most recent of their family members to graduate from the College; their three sisters Charissa, Danielle and Erin also earned degrees from Charter Oak.

"I think we ended up both attending Charter Oak because of the success some of our older siblings have seen there," said Joel, who hopes to attend school to become a paralegal in the fall as well as start his own coffee roasting business. "I knew it was an affordable way to attain a college degree. It's been a positive learning experience."

"I decided to attend Charter Oak because of its focus on helping working adults finish their degrees," said Alicia, who is self-employed as a voice and piano teacher, with plans to grow her business and hone her skills as a singer, pianist and teacher. "I liked the idea of being able to build my career while doing my college work."

Joel and Alicia have been singing and taking voice lessons since childhood, and are both currently members of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus. They are looking forward to performing the National Anthem at commencement, something their sister Danielle did when she graduated from Charter Oak in 2006. "I feel privileged to be able to do the same," Alicia said.



Joel and Alicia York perform the National Anthem at commencement.