Charter Oak Holds 2013 Commencement Ceremony on June 2 Theme was “Perseverance”

Four hundred and ninety-four members of the Class of 2013 received degrees during Charter Oak State College’s commencement ceremony held on Sunday, June 2, in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. One hundred and fifty-four graduates were in attendance. A live webcast of the ceremony was hosted on CharterOak.edu.

An honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, was presented to Charter Oak alum Kimberly L. Beauregard. Ms. Beauregard, a LCSW, is President and CEO of InterCommunity, Inc. in East Hartford, a community behavioral health organization.

Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski addressed the graduates. The student speaker was John Thomas, who served as a Board of Regents for Higher Education Student Advisory Committee representative as well as an alternate Student Advisory Committee representative. He also served on the Student Association Council.

Honorary Degree Awarded to Kimberly L. Beauregard

Each year, this honorary degree is awarded by the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education and Charter Oak State College 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 Charter Oak’s June 2 commencement ceremony, the Board of Regents and the College awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, to a proud Charter Oak alum and President and CEO of a prominent Connecticut behavioral health organization, Kimberly L. Beauregard.
The President’s Take

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some new developments at Charter Oak that point the way forward. First, I attended a press conference at the Connecticut Science Center on July 2nd, to announce the launch of the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers. The Science Center has created a program of hands on science learning for Connecticut’s K-12 teachers, and they were lauded by the Governor, the Mayor, and the Commissioner of Education, to name a few. In addition, they attracted the support of the Mandell family in the form of a major donation and are already educating 50 teachers. The piece of this story that speaks to the future for Charter Oak is that we performed an evaluation of this educational program and found that it is deserving of nine graduate credits. So this program is now Charter Oak’s first graduate program. Notice that it involved our CCAP approach of using a team of faculty to assess training offered by someone else for College credit. If the Science Center enrolls the 1500 teachers they are planning to serve, the number of graduate credits that can be placed on a Charter Oak transcript should be substantial.

The next development is a $150,000 grant that we received from EDUCAUSE and the Innovation League to be part of an Incubator Program to be launched in Seattle at the Gates Foundation headquarters. This event requires the presence of seven members of the College team, including several of the executives, for three days. The program will help us define a project that we can execute in the area of competency-based learning. What is noteworthy is that the grant was not an open competition. Charter Oak, and a small group of institutions who had been represented at a series of national meetings around competency-based learning, were asked to submit a proposal in order to add us to a group of institutions that are part of the Gates Next Generation effort. We were included because of our track record in the area of competency-based learning (note the earlier story about the CT Science Center).

And my final story concerns the successful launch of our Health Information Management major. This is the very first major offered by the College. We chose it using a professional market research firm. It resonates with our focus on being a workforce College, but it also is the result of our students transferring to Charter Oak with fewer credits (down from 90 to 72). Today’s students are not just looking to finish a degree, they are looking to finish a particular degree. So we are adapting. We have already upgraded our Healthcare Administration concentration to a major and there are more in the pipeline.

These three stories illustrate the direction in which the College is moving. We must produce degree programs that move our graduates into careers or promotions; we must use graduate education as part of this effort; and we must leverage our 40 years of experience with Prior Learning Assessment to offer our adult students the fastest, lowest cost path to a degree by accepting for credit things they learned outside of a College classroom.

I will keep you posted. Enjoy your summer!

Ed Klonoski
President

Greetings! We Hope the Dog Days of Summer Offered Time for Fun.

Charter Oak Alumni recently had some fun at a New Britain Rock Cats game, and the Alumni Association is busy planning more gatherings around the country. As we reported in the last issue of Connections, we are expanding our horizons and possibly coming to a city near you. After some initial activity in Jacksonville last year, we will be traveling back to Florida several more times this year as we are seeking alumni who are interested in meeting with us and helping with our recruitment efforts. In particular, if you are in the health care or public safety field and interested in talking with us about how you might be able to help with recruiting efforts at your workplace, please contact Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations at ntaylor@charterook.edu or 860-515-3863.

We will also be traveling to Texas and the Washington DC area. We hope to plan these events with groups of alumni who would serve as coordinators on the ground and to potentially start small groups in your area.

Please welcome the newest members of the Alumni Association Board:

Melissa Greenberg lives in Woodbridge, CT. Prior to attending Charter Oak, Melissa attended University of Delaware and University of New Orleans. She lived in New Orleans for seven years and upon returning to Connecticut decided that she wanted to go back to school for Human Resources. Currently she is doing an internship with a non-profit organization in the HR department and plans to go back to school in the fall for her masters in leadership while looking for a job in the HR field. Melissa feels a special connection to Charter Oak as she suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm while at a student. She credits the staff and professors for helping her get back on track.

John Thomas is a lifelong resident of central Connecticut. He has two adult children and 5 grandchildren. He graduated in June 2013, with a Concentration in Organizational Leadership. Currently he is the Director of Operations at a local animal rescue agency and the proprietor of JThomas Training and Facilitation. Previously, he served for over 21 years at a local youth development organization. During his time at COSC he served as a representative to the Charter Oak Student Association and as the inaugural student advisor to the CT Board of Regents for Higher Education.

Lisa Wilson admits that when she graduated high school she wasn’t really ready for college. She found a certificate program in Early Childhood Education and started working toward her AS in that field. By the time she received her degree she had made the switch to retail and quickly moved up in positions. When the company she was working for went out of business she realized that she wanted to get a degree in Human Resource Management. On the recommendation of a COSC alumnus she enrolled at Charter Oak. While working toward her degree she was able to find a job in her field of study before graduation. Lisa served as the President of the Student Association.

As always, if you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact Alumni Association Board president, Lisa Wildman at lwildman@ VelocityCommunications.net. Please send us your ideas and your updates – we always like hearing about the accomplishments of our impressive alumni! And don’t forget – YOU are our best ambassadors for the College!

Ed Klonoski, President

Connections

Summer/Fall 2013 Volume XXXVII, Number 1

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

State of Connecticut
Denise P. Melloy, Governor
Board of Regents
Dr. Gregory W. Gray, President
Charter Oak State College
Ed Klonoski, President

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Degree in nursing. Later in his nursing career he worked in the emergency department at Yale-New Haven Hospital, which provided welcome challenges. "Trauma was the most exciting to me," Grady said. "It’s probably the area of nursing where a nurse has the most responsibility and autonomy, as well as the opportunity to make a huge difference in the life of a patient.”

By the time Grady came to Charter Oak to complete his bachelor’s degree, he had two associate degrees – in human services and nursing – and was a full-time, stay-at-home dad, who was also working three 12-hour night shifts a week. Charter Oak’s flexibility was paramount to completing his degree, which allowed him to go on to law school and pursue his career as a lawyer.

"Charter Oak allowed me to develop my own program and get my undergraduate degree completed in a way that was both expeditious and meaningful," he said. "I was also given the latitude to focus on the courses I wanted to take, and could take them where I wanted to take them.”

**U.S. News Ranks Charter Oak State College among the Best Online Bachelor’s Programs**

In a recently released report, U.S. News & World Report ranked Charter Oak State College within the top 15 best online bachelor’s programs available in 2013. The distinction is one of three awards the college has received recently for its programs and services to students.

U.S. News evaluated several factors to rank programs, including graduation rates, faculty credentials and support services available remotely. Charter Oak State College President Ed Klonoski said of the distinction, ‘No longer are we higher education’s best kept secret. The word is getting out that Charter Oak offers students affordable, flexible and workforce-relevant degree programs that rank us among the best of our peer institutions.’

The methodology behind the selections included a weighted system to compare colleges: Student Engagement (50%), Faculty Credentials and Training (25%) and Student Services and Technology (25%) comprised the three main areas of comparison.
Doris Cassiday recognizes Eben David Salter with a Southern Connecticut State University, from Charter Oak in 1993, she went After receiving her bachelor’s degree highest quality of service is provided and area providers to ensure the Directors, executive leadership team, collaboratively with the Board of Behavioral Health System. She works services at Rushford Center/MidState following an 18-year career in social Beauregard, who lives in Meriden, mental health challenges has made “Her long service to those living with State College President Ed Klonoski. seeks to promulgate,” said Charter Oak "Honorary Degree Awarded “ continued from pg. 1
commencement 2013
congratulations graduates
Charter Oak State College Foundation Hosts Spring Fundraiser

The Charter Oak State College Foundation hosted a successful spring fundraiser at the Governor’s Residence in Hartford on April 23. The theme of the evening was “The Power of Women: Believing is Achieving” and honored Dr. Merle Harris, President Emerita of Charter Oak and Founder of the College’s Women in Transition (WIT) program. Keynote speaker was Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. Governor Dannel Malloy also addressed the attendees, along with Charter Oak President Ed Klonoski and Charter Oak State College Foundation President Rebeka Scalia.

The fundraiser was in support of the WIT program, which provides single mothers with opportunities to complete a college degree online. Charter Oak provides a computer, Internet access, financial aid to meet educational costs, as well as continuous advisement and online interaction with a peer network.

Charter Oak Awarded Prestigious National Grant

Charter Oak State College is proud to be one of seven colleges and universities nationally to be selected by EDUCAUSE, the League for Innovation in the Community College, and Next Generation Learning Challenges to study new models for improving both productivity and student outcomes. The program, Breakthrough Models Incubator, is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Charter Oak will receive grant support to participate in the program.

Other colleges selected include Austin Peay State University, Ball State University, SUNY-Empire State College, Harper College, Montgomery County Community College, and the University of Maryland University College.

Charter Oak President Ed Klonoski said, “It is reaffirming for us to be represented among such an extraordinary group of diverse, forward-thinking institutions dedicated to finding innovative ways to improve student outcomes. We are looking forward to participating in this study and continuing to bring emerging approaches to earning college degrees to our students here in Connecticut and nationally.”

Diana Oblinger, CEO of EDUCAUSE said, “The goal of Next Generation Learning Challenges is to improve college readiness and completion by accelerating and scaling breakthroughs in technology-enabled innovation. The Breakthrough Models Incubator will serve institutions that seek to dramatically improve student success in terms of persistence and graduation, through more personalized, mastery-based approaches to learning, enabled in part by technology.”

The ultimate goal of the Incubator is to broadly accelerate the adoption of innovative strategies for two-year and four-year institutions. Beginning with a small pilot group, the Incubator will work with successive cohorts to create an expanding network.
Steve Zimcosky recently published a book through Amazon and Kindle. The book, titled “Old Man from the Hill (Lessons in Qigong and Tai Chi),” is about a young boy who by chance meets an old Chinese man who teaches him the ancient Chinese healing art of Qigong and Tai Chi. Steve also works as an adjunct faculty member at Cuyahoga Community College where he teaches Tai Chi/Qigong and Physical relaxation.

2006
Num Matthew Friedman just completed his Ph.D. in intercultural studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. This was a part of the path which led to his recent completion of a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Intercultural Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary this past spring. He serves on the faculty at Oak Hills Christian College in Shreveport, LA, as well as preparing to teach online at Asbury Seminary as an adjunct professor. He credits his success to the flexibility and affordability of Charter Oak State College’s program.

Since graduating from CDSC, Lincoln Hale has received a Master of Theological Studies (MTS), graduating with distinction, in Ancient Biblical Studies at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. He is currently working on a Ph.D. in History of Christianity at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA. He has presented research at a number of conferences including Brigham Young University and Seattle University. His research interests include Coptic Studies, Mormon Studies, and ancient languages (Coptic, Greek, Hebrew, and some Latin). He is also currently serving as Vice President of the Claremont Mormon Studies Student Association. He and his wife Arna have three children, ages 6, 4, and 2.

Debra Stewart has been busy since graduating from Charter Oak. She completed her MBA and MATTL, won the APSCU Great Award, and worked as an assistant professor for Ashford University and Sinclair Community College. She completed course work for a Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of the Rockies with a specialization in Health and Wellness, and is currently working on her dissertation. She will soon be testing for her sixth black belt with Chung’s Academy of Martial Arts.

2009
After working in China until April 2012, David French accepted a position as International Product Development Director at Teraforma, a design-driven high-end home and consumer products company in South Norwalk, CT. www.teraforma.com.

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration from Charter Oak in 2009, William J. Hackett has obtained a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Homeland Security from Philadelphia’s Saint Joseph’s University. Bill continues to serve as Connecticut’s State Emergency Management Director. In that role, Director Hackett is responsible for, among other things, coordinating the State’s response to disasters at the Governor’s State Emergency Operations Center. He has been appointed by the Governor to serve as the State Coordinating Officer for the last seven Presidential major disaster declarations in Connecticut, most recently for Super Storm Sandy and the February 2013 blizzard.

After graduating from Charter Oak, Joseph L. Herrmann completed a post-graduate certificate in East Asian Studies at the University of Leeds in Leeds, England. He is currently awaiting deployment to Afghanistan for the U.S. Military as an English teacher to Afghani pilots.

2010
Jennifer Bisignano is currently attending Walden University, working toward her Master in Early Childhood Studies degree, with plans to graduate in December.
Thank you to the current and past supporters of the Women in Transition program (WIT) that benefits underserved and underemployed single Connecticut mothers in their quest for degree completion.

Current Supporters:
The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
The Charter Oak State College Foundation
The Leopold Family Foundation
The Women and Girls’ Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation

Past Supporters:

A special thank you to The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for generously providing a total of $428,000 to support the Women in Transition Program.

WIT Program Receives Grant

Charter Oak’s Women in Transition (WIT) program was the recent recipient of a grant from the Women and Girls Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation in Bristol, CT. This grant allows for support of one or two students from Bristol, CT surrounding area with the completion of their Charter Oak degree.

The WIT program provides single mothers with opportunities to complete a college degree online. Charter Oak provides a computer, Internet access, financial aid to meet educational costs, as well as continuous advisement and online interaction with a peer network. “We are excited for the confidence and continued support that the Main Street Community Foundation has provided for the Women in Transition program,” said Charter Oak Coordinator of Special Programs, Delores Bell. “As a result of their confidence in the WIT program we are excited for the opportunity to assist other students from the Bristol area reach their goal of completing their degree and providing a bright future for them and their children.”

“Our program aims strongly with the mission of the Women & Girls Fund by providing opportunities for women to achieve success in their lives.”

President’s Circle

$750 and above
- Doris Cassiday
- Kristyna Gorack
- Fred Hanzal
- Mele & David Harris
- Ed Molden
- David Matthews
- Paul Kaminski
- Joyce Peltier

Supporter Circle

$500-$749
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- James T Banks
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- Pedro Gibern
- Alice Hermann
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- Shirley Kiefer
- Krista MacGregor
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- Mark Scheinberg
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- Peter Bruns
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- Roberta Wilks
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- Nancy Maitland Woodward

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$399 and under
- Nancy Allen
- Brian Anderson
- Timothy Anderson
- Marcia Anderson-Enson
- Mary Ann Bodecker
- Catherine Bergin
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- Rachel Marinetti
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- Naomi McGly

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, 2012 and June 30, 2013. 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.

In Memory of
- Mary Ashton
- Rob Hall
- Richard Cohn
- Sandy Morgan
- Affina Cuzzuo
- Cheryl Cuzzuo-Cramer
- Leo O. Dumas
- Peter M Dumas
- Adele Garby
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- Robert Frankel
- Devin Bel
- Marlene Woodman
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Charter Oak State College’s 40th Anniversary Celebration
&
Charter Oak State College Foundation’s Shea Lecture
HealthCare: The Next 40 Years

Thursday, November 14; 6:00 p.m. — The Mark Twain House, Hartford
For information — www.coscf.org