In this issue

1. HIM Accreditation  
   CAHIIM Approved
2. The President’s Take  
   Moving Forward
3. Shea Lecture/Fundraiser  
   Photos of Event
4. Scholarships Awarded  
   30 Scholarships Awarded
5. Exciting Collaboration  
   COSC partners with edX

Health Information Management Major Receives Accreditation
Charter Oak is proud to announce that its Health Information Management Bachelor’s degree has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM), the governing academic authority in the field of Health Information Management.

Cindy Glewwe Edgerton, M.Ed, RHIA, Program Director said, “This is an incredible achievement for the college which demonstrates the program’s compliance with the high standards required by CAHIIM to ensure a quality Health Information Management program.”

The College has pursued this degree and subsequent accreditation for its perfect fit with the workforce college strategy. “With this accreditation,” Edgerton says, “students can be assured that they have enrolled in a great program. Plus as a public college, we...”

Family and Work – The Focus of the 2015 Shea Lecture
Irene O’Connor, Anchor, WFSB Channel 3 Eyewitness News This Morning, and mom to twins, was the moderator for the 2015 Shea Lecture, Work and the Modern Family: Connecting the Dots. O’Connor led the discussion of a diverse group of panelists representing corporate America and small business, in fields including communications, talent management, and non-profit theater. The conversation touched on a broad range of topics from demographic trends, minimum wage, and paternity leave, to social media policies at work, millennials, flex time and telecommuting, corporate culture, competition for talent, and the value of innovation and creating and maintaining a strong U.S. economy.

The lecture, which was free and open to the public, was held on November 11, at The Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, CT.

Joyce Petrella, Charter Oak State College Foundation Board Secretary and Managing Director and Principal, Calculus of Talent, set the stage with a presentation on changing demographic and household trends. Data presented pointed to an increase in multi-generational households. Petrella said the modern household, “is looking less like the Pritchett’s and more like...”

continued on pg. 2

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Greetings from the Alumni Association!

At Charter Oak State College, we have another very ambitious year planned that marks the successes of our signature programs.

In the fall of 2015 we gained CAHIIM accreditation for our Health Information Management Bachelor’s degree. CAHIIM accreditation is extremely important in the HIM field as this allows our graduates to sit for the RHIA (Registered Health Information Administrator) exam. RHIA certification is sought after in the HIM field, and now Charter Oak State College is the only CAHIIM accredited four year program in New England. A great accomplishment.

Charter Oak’s new Cyber Security Bachelor’s degree continues to attract those interested in this ever-growing field. Both Cyber Security and HIM are in keeping with Charter Oak’s mission of offering workforce relevant degrees for the 21st century workforce. You should be proud as a Charter Oak alum that your alma mater is at the forefront of such cutting edge degrees. For a first-hand look at just how “in demand” our HIM graduates are, see the alumni profile of Kim Montero.

In 2015 the college also continued expanding its “degrees without boundaries” by conducting recruiting activities in Florida, Texas, Ohio, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. Charter Oak Alumni were extremely helpful in all of these locations, and as always, we enjoyed meeting all of you and appreciate all of your assistance. In Florida, the college engaged in advertising out of state and developed a comprehensive outreach plan we called “GO Florida”. This outreach will continue into 2016 and includes an online and radio advertising presence

We wish you a successful and happy 2016. If you have any news to share or are interested in getting more involved in the Alumni Association, please contact Nancy Taylor.

Ed Klonoski, President

Foundation Hosts Fundraiser

Following the lecture, the Charter Oak State College Foundation hosted a fundraiser in support of scholarships for Charter Oak State College students. Approximately 75 people celebrated the work of the College and contributed to the Foundation’s funds to provide assistance to current deserving students.

Rebecca Scala, alum and Foundation Board President noted during the twelve month period from 2014-2015, the Foundation distributed over $95,000 in grants, scholarships, and program services. Scala said, “These grants are made possible by fundraising efforts like this one tonight, and we are grateful for your support and attendance.”

“HIM Major Receives Accreditation” continued from pg. 1

one of the most affordable online options.”
The Bureau of Labor Statistics has cited Health Information Management as one of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the U.S. with a projected job growth rate of 23% from 2012 to 2022. Graduating from a CAHIIM accredited HIM program allows students to take the Registered Health Information Administration (RHIA) exam.

Successful candidates for this Bachelor of Science degree should be familiar with working in a health care or health care-related environment and have an aptitude for biological sciences and information technology. Students who already possess a health care credential (i.e. RHIT, CCA, CCS, CPC, RN, etc.) may be able to receive credit for it, reducing the number of required courses.

Charter Oak has also entered into a transfer agreement with Manchester Community College (MCC) that enables those graduates to more easily transfer credits.

The new transfer program specifically targets MCC’s Associate’s degree in business office technology/medical with a transfer to the Health Information Management Bachelor’s degree.

The agreement between MCC and Charter Oak represents an opportunity for students who are already halfway toward the credential to complete it. “This relationship will be fruitful for everyone involved,” says Senior Admissions Associate Moses Terrell. “It is a great opportunity for working adults to earn a Bachelor’s degree while still working.”

Adgers added that it is important to note that only CAHIIM accredited HIM programs offer graduates the ability to sit for the RHIA exam, an important credential in the field. “Charter Oak is the only college in New England to earn this accreditation,” he said. “The transfer agreement provides students with a unique pathway to one of the highest growth sectors in the U.S. labor market.”

along with a waiver for the application fee. If you have family, friends, or coworkers in Florida please tell them about the opportunity to apply to the college for free right now.

Charter Oak’s Admissions team is looking forward to meeting even more alumni across the country in 2016 if you live in one of the priority states mentioned above, please drop us a note and let us know if you think you might be able to help us or would like to meet other alumni in your state. Please contact Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations at ntaylor@charteroak.edu or 860-515-3863.

We wish you a successful and happy 2016. If you have any news to share or are interested in getting more involved in the Alumni Association, please contact Nancy Taylor.

Ed Klonoski, President
Meet Kimberly Montero ‘15

Her health care journey began shortly after graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Art from Paier College of Art in Hamden, Connecticut. Even though she didn’t use her degree as originally intended, her education there gave her the foundation for out-of-the-box thinking she associates with good problem solving skills. In retrospect, she says, those skills allowed her to simply follow her interest in health care with an open mind.

I saw to make a big difference is what attracted me to this degree.

While working for a health food store, Montero encountered clients who were interested in bettering their health without medication. This led her to search for an entry-level position in a laboratory as a Microbiology Clerk where she saw the need to reduce duplicate testing. This was the start of her interest in medical records, quality reporting, and health care improvement. “There is so much that HIM professionals can do to greatly improve health care just by coordinating that care among entities, all without needing to see patients directly,” says Kimberly. “The work that needs to be done and the opportunity

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Four scholarships were awarded. They included:

The Harris-Wiener Family Fund Scholarship awarded to Joey-Lynn Darius

The Beverly and Rodney Hawes, Jr. Scholarship awarded to James Sinclair

The Mark Carr Scholarship Award awarded to Peter Lynch

Technology Grant awarded to Wanda Molina

Scholarships were presented by Foundation President Rebeka Scalia and Vice President Neal Cunningham.

In addition to scholarships, Charter Oak State College President, Ed Klonoski, proudly announced the formation of the Foundation's Legacy Society. Klonoski said, “Tonight we honored our first President and our first Foundation President. Well it is my privilege to offer you another group of leaders. These individuals form the Legacy Society of the COSC Foundation. Each has built a donation to the College into their will. These commitments to our students are both essential to the future of the Foundation and eminently admirable. It is our hope that these leaders light a path that is followed by many of you.”

The eight Founding Members of the Charter Oak State College Legacy Society are Marcia Anderson-Esson, Neal and Rosemary Cunningham, Merle and David Harris, Astrid and Fred Hanzalek, Marjory Marsching, Joyce and Mario Petrella, Rebeka and Frank Scalia, and Ed and Angela Klonoski.

Klonoski added, “We have decided to cap this leadership group at an even dozen, so there is room for four more additions to this list of Founding Legacy Society members.”

Charter Oak State College alum, Foundation Board member and United States Army veteran Rebecca Wareing recognized Veteran's Day with a tribute to veterans in attendance from each branch of service. She was followed by Tamara Maore who led the singing of the National Anthem.

The Foundation is deeply appreciative to its sponsors including Gold Sponsors – Travelers, Calculus of Talent, LLC; Silver Sponsor – Simsbury Bank; Bronze Sponsors – People’s United Bank, First Niagara, Management Search, Inc.
Foundation Scholarships Awarded

This year, the Foundation received over 250 scholarship applications compared to 77 applications in 2013. The Foundation was able to award 30 of these 250 students with scholarships. The number of scholarship applications continues to increase annually, which speaks to the increased need of our adult students.

During the Foundation’s fundraising reception in support of scholarships for Charter Oak students on November 11, 2015, the Foundation awarded 3 named scholarships. The Harris-Wiener Family Fund Scholarship, The Beverly & Rodney Hawes, Jr. Scholarship, and The Mark Carr Scholarship Award. The Foundation also awarded one technology grant.

The Harris-Wiener Family Fund Scholarship was established in 1998 by Charter Oak State College President Merle W Harris and her husband David to assist needy women who wanted to continue their education, particularly women wishing to pursue careers in education, social service, or public service. The parents of both David and Merle Harris believed that education was the key to success. Both families also stressed the importance of serving others. These family values are reflected in the criteria for this scholarship.

The recipient of this award Joey-Lynn Darius, made the decision to continue her education at Charter Oak State College with the ultimate goal of pursing a degree in law and becoming an attorney in the juvenile court system. This scholarship will help to ease the financial burden of completing a college degree for Joey-Lynn, a single mother of 3 children, and will allow her to focus on completing her degree to serve as a public servant in our judicial system.

The Beverly and Rodney Hawes, Jr. Scholarship was established in 2003. Following the June 2003 commencement ceremony where Mr. Hawes was the recipient of a Charter Oak Honorary Doctoral degree, he and his wife announced that they would present a gift to the COSC Foundation to establish a scholarship. They subsequently made a generous donation and established the Beverly and Rodney Hawes, Jr. Scholarship to recognize a Charter Oak student pursuing a business concentration 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.

A longtime advocate for the individual worker, Mr. Hawes 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 recipient of this award, James Sinclair, is currently pursuing his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and considers public service a part of his life. James has been active in the community and politics for many years. He is a member of two service organizations and has served 8 years in elected office and has participated on various committees for his Chamber of Commerce and endeavored to help small businesses as a town official.

The Mark Carr Scholarship Award was established early this year and honors the memory of Mark Carr who was the former Fire Chief of New Britain, CT. He was dedicated to bringing a high level of competence to the New Britain Fire Department through training, continuous education, and fostering community spirit. Prior to his passing in August 2014, Mark Carr worked in the Homeland Security sector in Washington, DC where he was responsible for overseeing disaster preparedness, response, and security for the nation.

The Mark Carr Scholarship Award has been created to continue the legacy of public service that defined his life. He had a passion for continuous learning and so this award will assist especially those persons who are interested in pursuing education to eventually work in the public sector in the field of homeland security, emergency management, or fire sciences.

The recipient of this award, Peter Lynch, a career fire fighter and paramedic, is currently pursuing his Bachelor’s degree in Public Administration. Peter has studied many degree programs in the past and decided that the Public Safety Administration program at Charter Oak would best suit his prior learning experience and prepare him for a leadership role. Peter stated that he greatly respects Chief Carr’s legacy of training and hopes to bring that spirit to his own organization.

The Technology Grant was created by the Charter Oak State College Foundation to financially assist our online students in the purchase of technology items that support online learning. Wanda Molina, the recipient of this award, is currently pursuing her Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. After completing this degree, Wanda would like to further her education by enrolling in a Master’s degree program. Receiving this technology degree award will help Wanda to obtain reliable technology resources, which will help to break down the barriers to her achieving her goal of a college education, which she considers will be “my greatest accomplishment reached.”

The Charter Oak State College Foundation Board of Directors has appointed Angela Chapman as Executive Director of the Foundation. These duties fall within her current role as the Director of Institutional Advancement/Assistant to the President of the College. Please contact Angela at achapman@charteroak.edu for any Foundation items.

We are very pleased and thankful to announce recently received grants to The Women in Transition Program:

- The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving - $25,000
- The Leipold Family Foundation - $15,000
- The Aurora Women and Girls Foundation - $10,000
- The Women and Girls’ Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation - $2,050

The Registrar’s Office has switched to Parchment for all transcript requests. eTranscripts are now processed daily, free of charge. To request your official eTranscript go to CharterOak.edu, then About/Alumni/ Transcript Requests.

Academic Counseling reminds alums that they are available to help you put your best self forward to current and future employers with resume critique and/or mock interview practice assistance. The service is free with our very own Ashley Zennis, Certified Professional Resume Writer and Academic Counselor. She will work with you in person or via phone or videoconference. Contact Ashley for an appointment at 860-515-3852 or azennis@charteroak.edu

Welcome to new Foundation Board members: Julio Casiano, Deputy District Director, United States Small Business Administration (SBA); Glenn Davis, Vice President, Community Development/ CRA Officer, Liberty Bank; Cecilia Kozlowski, Director of Program Support, American Red Cross; Daniel Purushotham, Faculty, Central Connecticut State University; Gregory B. Sneed, CCSU Police Department, Chief of Police; and Latasha E. Turnquest, Director of Family Resource Centers for Manchester Public Schools.

Rebecca Scalia, President, Charter Oak State College Foundation and the 2015 Harris-Wiener Family Fund Scholarship winner, Joey-Lynn Darius.

We are very pleased and thankful to announce recently received grants to The Women in Transition Program:
Dear Friend of Charter Oak State College,

As we begin the season of giving, we are writing to thank you for your generous support of the adult students at Charter Oak State College. Your contributions have significantly helped our students change the course of their lives and careers by completing their college degree. For many of our students, you have helped to break the cycle of poverty in their families. You helped to give many of our students a second chance and the opportunity to say, “I finally did it” and we are so grateful to you. Can you imagine experiencing decades of missed opportunities and finally reaching the life changing goal of a college degree? Thank you for believing in our students and empowering their growth and change.

Thanks to compassionate donors like you, the Charter Oak State College Foundation distributed over $95,000 in scholarships, grants, and program support to Charter Oak State College students during a 12-month period from 2014-2015. Your contributions support the highest priorities of the Foundation and they help to make a college education available to all students regardless of their financial needs.

With the holidays approaching and the season of gift giving upon us, I hope that you will consider a gift to the Charter Oak State College Foundation. Every gift, no matter the size, helps sustain our commitment to support the unique education envisioned by our founder, Dr. Paul J. Manafort. Together with you and our friends, we can create a strong financial base to support the highest priorities of the Foundation and they help to make a college education available to all students regardless of their financial needs.

With gratitude for your support,

Rebecca Scalia, President  Angela Chapman, Executive Director
Come mingle at our Alumni Spring Social!

Evening of art, music, and fabulous food

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, April 29, 2016
6pm-9pm

Location:
New Britain Museum of American Art
New Britain, CT

Visit www.charteroak.edu/alumni/news.cfm for updates.