

# connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017 VOL. XLII NO. 1



## Donor Appreciation Event

### Foundation Thanks Donors for Generous Support and Awards Scholarships

It was an evening of thanks – both given and received. The Charter Oak State College Foundation hosted a scholarship awards and donor appreciation evening on December 7. This popular event allows the Foundation Board to express its gratitude to those who have invested their time and resources to support Charter Oak State College adult students in need.

Rebeka Scalia, President of the Charter Oak State College Foundation, kicked off the event with a heartfelt thank you to the donors for their generous support of the Charter Oak State College Foundation. "As many of you know from your own educational experiences, it is difficult for an adult to manage family, work, and a college

education. Charter Oak helps to make that balance possible, and gifts from generous alumni and friends of the college have been vital to helping our adult students facing financial difficulties succeed." During the twelve month period from 2015-2016, the Charter Oak State College Foundation distributed over \$96,000 to support students in need.

In honor of the 75th National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Retired Shelton, CT Police Chief, Joel Hurliman presented an emotional tribute in memory of all who lost their lives on December 7, 1941. This tribute was followed by an alum of the College's *Women in Transition* program who shared her story and expressed her gratitude to the program.

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### Become a Founding Member of the Student Crisis Fund Endowment

The Charter Oak State College Foundation invites you to consider creating a lasting legacy by becoming a Founder of the Charter Oak State College Foundation's Student Crisis Fund Endowment.

The Charter Oak State College Foundation's Student Crisis Fund was established in 2011 to provide funds to Charter Oak State College students for unforeseen financial crisis situations that could prevent students from successfully completing their degree. A college degree can change the lives of many adult students and their families, but sometimes issues of life can become so burdensome that finishing college is far down on the list. The Student Crisis Fund is a critical resource to the Charter Oak State College student during extraordinary times of crisis. The uniqueness and value of the Student Crisis Fund reside in its ability to respond to unanticipated student needs immediately. The ability to respond almost instantly to emergency situations as compared to our other Foundation programs that provide for scholarships and awards that are planned well in advance of actual distribution has allowed us to step in and help students overcome unplanned

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# THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



I want to tell you about several initiatives that are taking place within the Charter Oak State College Foundation, all of which are driven by alums. After 43 years in the degree completion business, we have over 13,000 alums. Whenever I talk with any of those alums, all express remarkable appreciation for what the College was able to do for them. In every case, they needed an institution with flexibility and

an adult focus, and they could not find it until they found us.

So it should not surprise you that our major donors are all alums. Michael Marusa was one such proud alum. He graduated in 2004, and we received an annual gift from him every year, like clockwork. Cardinal Health, his employer, had a matching gift program, and their check followed his with the same regularity. Sadly, in June of 2016, Michael passed away, and we began to receive donations in his honor from family and friends. These donations came from over 61 sources and ranged in size from \$25 to over \$2,500. Like Michael's donations, many were matched by corporations. So in a few short months, the family memorials for Michael totaled over \$11,000 and the Michael Marusa Endowed Fund was born. When I thanked the family and announced this achievement at a recent donor appreciation event of the College's Foundation, with Michael's son in the room, I reminded everyone that this fund will now honor Michael's memory for as long as Charter Oak exists. That is how an endowed fund operates. The principle is never spent, and awards are given from the interest earned. That literally makes an endowment a gift that keeps on giving.

That is not the only such endowment that was finalized this year. In 2011, we began something we call the Student Crisis Fund with a \$1,000 gift from one of our alums, David Matthews, and a matching gift from the student association. This fund lets us offer

students in crisis a small gift that solves an immediate problem standing between them and graduation. For example, we have replaced a stolen laptop, paid for a cancer drug, and assisted with payment on a final course. All of these gifts are made quickly to resolve an unexpected problem in real time. In 2016, we received a gift from someone who attended a fundraiser and was intrigued by the Crisis Fund, and she challenged the Foundation Board to match her \$2,000 gift. They did, the very next night. And that kind of contagious giving, along with continued support from the Student Association, has pushed the fund to over \$12,000.

One final story. We have a program called *Women in Transition* that supports single mothers as they work their way through a degree. The program was created by Charter Oak President Merle Harris and has been a home run in every way since 1999. But one of its most remarkable successes started when the Leipold Family Foundation began supporting the effort with a large annual contribution. The gifts, which have totaled over \$70,000 to date, are wonderful, and they were originated by Rachel Leipold, a graduate of the WIT program. When Rachel became one of the trustees for this family foundation, she did not forget the program that made a positive difference in her life, and for that support we will always be grateful.

There are two takeaways from these stories. First, our alums are intensely loyal to the College that made such a difference in their lives, and second, they keep finding powerful ways to "pay it forward" for the support they received. To those of you who give to the Charter Oak State College Foundation, I say thank you, and to those who would like to start, I offer this link as the place to begin: [www.charteroak.edu/foundation](http://www.charteroak.edu/foundation)

Ed Klonoski, President

"Foundation Thanks Donors" continued from pg. 1

Ed Klonoski, President of Charter Oak State College, expressed his sincerest appreciation to the Foundation Board of Directors, alumni, and friends who continue to support the Charter Oak student. In memory of Michael Marusa, a Charter Oak State College alum and dedicated supporter of the Foundation, President Klonoski presented a heartfelt tribute in his honor. "Michael was quietly but relentlessly dedicated to supporting Charter Oak. He never asked for anything, we never had to remind him, he was always there for us." The family and friends of Michael Marusa have donated over \$11,000 in his memory to create a permanent

endowed scholarship in his name. President Klonoski said "This is a very special experience for us. We are so proud to be held in such high esteem by our graduate and his family and we will remember him and all of his family and friends every time we give out the scholarships in his name that will be created by all this generosity."

The Charter Oak State College Foundation scholarship awards and donor appreciation event touched the hearts of many in attendance. Rebeka Scalia presented well-deserved scholarships to current Charter Oak State College students. Linda West was

presented with the Beverly & Rodney Hawes, Jr. Endowed Scholarship and Yanira Fuster-Serano was presented with the Charter Oak State College Foundation Scholar award.

In addition to donors, Rebeka Scalia thanked the Foundation Board of Directors for continuing to lead by example and give so generously of their time, treasure, and talent. She also thanked CCSU Chief of Police, Gregory Sneed, a Charter Oak State College alum and Charter Oak State College Foundation Board member, for graciously playing the saxophone during the event. 🌱

# MBA vs. MS – What Degree is Best For You?

by Thomas Barron, Graduate Program Director

The field of business has a wealth of disciplines that students can choose to pursue including such areas as organizational effectiveness and leadership, accounting, finance, marketing, international business, business analytics, etc. Identifying and selecting an appropriate degree program is a very personal decision that ultimately comes down to your professional career interests and aspirations.

When comparing an MBA degree to a Master of Science degree one should explore the issue of breadth versus depth of the subject matter covered in the degree program. A person with a Master of Science degree tends to become

a subject matter expert within a singular discipline and is typically recognized as the resident expert in a functional area within an organization. A person with an MBA tends to look at the overall picture covering a wide area of functions within an organization.

The approach to the studies may vary significantly. A Master of Science degree guides a student through substantial, deep exploration of the intricacies of the subject matter whereas an MBA will address a broad range of knowledge content areas across all business functions that are focused on application and limited in depth of singular subject content.

## Benefits to Consider:

CRITERIA	MASTER OF SCIENCE	MBA
Subject Matter Content	Depth over breadth	Breadth over depth
Generalist vs. Specialist	Specialist	Generalist
Career Perspective	Subject matter expert	Management scope
Subject matter rigor	Deeply explore subject	Skills across many subjects
Education	Lectures, labs, case studies	Emphasis on case studies
Commitment	Typically 30-33 credits	Typically 36+ credits

## So why a Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership instead of an MBA?

It has become increasingly challenging for organizations to operate effectively and improve their value, given the increasing rate of change occurring in the business environment. These changes are driven by constantly improving technology, rapid new product and service development, supply chain globalization, and global economic uncertainties. As such there is a focus on

developing the next generation of leaders to become more results-oriented and focus on building capabilities.

The Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership at Charter Oak State College is uniquely positioned to develop, provide, and enhance the requisite practical skill sets that leaders in organizations so desperately need. 🌱

Contact our graduate degree office at 860-515-3895, [gradadmissions@charteroak.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@charteroak.edu), or visit [www.CharterOak.edu/Masters](http://www.CharterOak.edu/Masters) for more information.

## Welcome New Staff!

We are happy to announce three new employees have joined our academic and leadership staff.



**Michael J. Moriarty** joined the College as its new Chief Financial Officer on December 30, 2016. Moriarty is a graduate of the

University of Connecticut's business school where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Accounting. As a Certified Public Accountant, he holds memberships to state and national finance organizations, serves on various Boards of Directors for local and state level non-profit organizations, and is authored in several trade publications. Prior to joining Charter Oak State

College, Moriarty was part of Deloitte & Touche's senior management team practicing out of the Hartford and New York City offices holding numerous leadership roles.

**Kristi Newgarden, PhD** assumed her position as Instructional Designer on January 27. She holds a PhD in educational technology, MA in



Teaching, BA in Asian Studies, and a certificate in Teaching English Online. She has over 25 years teaching experience and most recently directed the UCONN American Language Institute. She has extensive experience with a number of learning platforms

including developing courses, teaching online, and training other faculty to teach online.



**Wanda Warshauer** joined the staff as the Director of Academic Services on January 6. She most recently served as

the Associate Director of Admissions at the University of Saint Joseph. Prior to that she was the Operations Manager of Academic Advisement & Career Development Center at the University of Saint Joseph. She has a MS in Business Management and a BA in Special Education. She takes over from Linda Larkin who retired in November after 31 years with the College. 🌱



**Connections recently caught up with Juliet Zampaglione, Class of '16, Health Information Management. Juliet is employed in Connecticut by a leading health care organization.**

When Charter Oak launched the Health Information Management bachelor's degree program in 2012, the College had high hopes it would fill an industry need as well as student interest. To date the program graduates have proven both to be true. One hundred and four students are currently enrolled in the program with several ready to sit for the RHIA exam shortly after graduating this May. The Program graduates have secured excellent professional positions with large, well respected health care organizations upon completing their degrees.

Juliet Zampaglione is one such recent graduate and her determined journey mirrors many Charter Oak alumni. After high school Juliet jumped into college at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT to study nursing. After one semester she transferred to Northwestern Connecticut Community College because of location. After two years she switched majors and discovered that she preferred the administrative side of health care over the clinical side. At the same time, she enrolled in a non-degree program to become a pharmacy technician and sat

for the national pharmacy technician boards and became a nationally certified pharmacy technician.

She continued her degree program at NCCC and graduated with an Associate of Science degree in Health Information Management. Not to be complacent (!) she began classes at Charter Oak State College immediately, graduating in August 2016 with her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Management. Following graduation Juliet sat for the Registered Health Information Associate Exam (RHIA) administered by the American Health Information Management Association. She now holds those valuable credentials allowing her to pursue her administrative career in the growing health information field.

**“I am continuously promoting Charter Oak to my coworkers and employees because of the spectacular education that I received.”**

Many factors led to her interest and success in the field beginning with a high school job at Rite-Aid. Later on, while taking her pharmacy technician training she was able to get on-the-job experience back at Rite-Aid where she saw the value of patient information first hand.

Similarly, connections she made while completing the HIM program practicum, led directly to a reference for an open position. “The one week practicum was key to obtaining my current job. While I was at my practicum site, I was given the opportunity to see all parts of the HIM Department and the Director referred me to a vacant position at the end of the practicum. I gladly applied

for the position, interviewed with two of the senior HIM managers, and secured the position about a month prior to actually graduating!”

Juliet says she thoroughly enjoyed her time at Charter Oak and that it has significantly changed her life. Completing her degree offered her the opportunity to land a job in her field that is very satisfying. She credits professors and advisors, Frank Valier and Cindy Edgerton, with their availability and guidance, adding they were just as invested in her education as she was. She says “I am continuously promoting Charter Oak to my coworkers and employees because of the spectacular education that I received”.

Not one to sit still, Juliet is debating whether to pursue a Master's degree next. For now, she is enjoying her new job and spending time with family and friends. We wish her well in all her endeavors! ✨

*NOTE: If you are interested in sharing your success story with your fellow alumni, please contact **Helen Diecidue, Connections Editor**, and let her know. She can be reached at [hdiecidue@charteroak.edu](mailto:hdiecidue@charteroak.edu).*

## STAY CONNECTED THROUGH connections

We would like to hear from you about promotions, graduate degrees, awards, marriages, births, and other significant successes in your life. We will publish your news in the next edition of *Connections*. Please email your name, class, and news to: **Helen Diecidue** at [hdiecidue@charteroak.edu](mailto:hdiecidue@charteroak.edu).

# alumni spotlight

**1996** *Mark Anthony Anderson* is currently working on a Master's degree in European History from American Public University. After completing his Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Communications from Charter Oak, Anderson earned Master's degrees in history, business, and public administration. He is part owner and chief meteorologist of KOOL-TV, a new TV station and regional network in Central Minnesota airing classic TV programming, retro movies, local news, weather, and sports. Anderson lives in the St. Cloud, MN area with his family.

**1999** *Trinene Davis* was recognized at the **100 Women of Color Gala and Awards** in Hartford, CT on Friday, March 24, 2017 as an outstanding community leader/activist. The gala recognizes 100 women of color from Springfield, MA to Stamford, CT for their leadership, entrepreneurial success, and community service. Davis is a Connecticut native and published children's book author, youth coach, motivational speaker, and

community advocate who has actively worked to mentor young kids and adolescents for over 25 years.

**2002** *Todd M. Sparks, Maj, USAF*, took over as the active duty Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, MA and the Niagara Falls Air Reserve in Station, NY this past summer. After graduating from Charter Oak in 2002, Sparks then graduated from Brigham Young University's law program in 2005. He was then commissioned into the Air Force JAG Corps and held various legal positions while deploying around the world including Iraq, Afghanistan, and Liberia.

**2005** *Jared Paul Rozborski* is preparing to start a Master's of Forestry Services Certificate program at Yale University. Since graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Charter Oak State College he has run his own business, Connecticut Valley Home Services LLC, specializing in tree and horticultural services to residents in the Hartford, CT area.

**2007** *Rebecca Wareing* was recognized by The Hartford Business Journal in their "40 Under Forty 2015" issue. She was lauded for consistent top

performance, her Rookie of the Year in 2009 award, and increasing her sales by 29% in 2014 at her management search firm. Prior to joining Management Search Inc., she served 8 years with the National Guard in Bosnia as a broadcast journalist. She serves by appointment of the Governor of Connecticut as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, is a member of the Charter Oak State College Foundation Board, and is in her third term as an elected member of the Hartford Democratic Town Committee.

**2011** *Cecilia Kozlowski* is now the Director of Program Support for Disaster Operations, Connecticut and Rhode Island, for the American Red Cross. In this position, she is responsible for supporting the areas of real estate, facilities, budgets, development, disaster, volunteer engagement, business operations, and various campaigns. She also serves on the Charter Oak State College Foundation Board of Directors.

**2011** *Chris May*, President of the Charter Oak State College Alumni Association, was recently promoted to Lending Manager, Wells Fargo Dealer Services, overseeing a 10 person team of underwriters.

"Student Crisis Fund Endowment" continued from pg. 1

obstacles that might otherwise derail their educational goals.

These awards, though usually quite modest, go a long way in providing assistance to the students. Such awards might be replacing a stolen, lost, or broken computer which prevents the student from continuing online courses, replacing broken eyeglasses, or paying the graduation fee that is not covered by any other financial aid program but is unaffordable to the student and will prevent them from graduating. These are some examples of the types of assistance available through this fund, and it is exciting to know that students have a resource of this type to get assistance.

Monies to support this fund have been

on a "pay as you go" basis, but because of the positive impact of the funds on COSC students, we would like to create an endowment that could guarantee the continuation of this program. The Charter Oak State College Foundation is currently seeking twelve (12) founding members (individuals or companies) to pledge \$10,000 each to create an endowment for this fund. Founders of the Student Crisis Fund Endowment will become a part of the permanent history of this extraordinary fund, which has received great interest from organizations, the community, and our donors.

## What is an Endowment Fund?

An endowment fund is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding.

Endowment assets are invested and managed to achieve the Foundation's investment philosophy of long-term growth and safety. Earnings from the invested assets are available for distribution to recipients of the Student Crisis Fund. Excess earnings, capital gains, and continued donor contributions allow the endowment fund to grow and provide support for its designated purpose in perpetuity.

To learn more about becoming a Founder, contact **Ed Klonoski, President** of Charter Oak State College, by calling **860-515-3888** or email [eklonoski@charteroak.edu](mailto:eklonoski@charteroak.edu). 🌱

# Thank You!



Dear Friend of Charter Oak State College,

*“My gratitude for the foundation is beyond words. Based on your investment in my dream and ability, you removed every obstacle that has ever kept me from finishing my bachelor’s degree and finally I can maintain stability and fiscal security for my family. Thank you for the gift of manifesting my dreams. I now continue this effort in graduate school – know this investment gave me the faith I needed to succeed in all I do.”*

– April Shine, Charter Oak State College Alum

There are many Charter Oak State College students like April who succeed because of your generosity. Your contributions have significantly helped our students change the course of their lives and careers by completing their college degree. Thank you for helping us provide students in need with critical resources that break down the barriers to higher education. Every year students look to Charter Oak State College to help them begin their journey to a new destination in life and it is because of your support that we can offer many of our students a second chance.

Thanks to the generosity and compassion of donors like you, the Charter Oak State College Foundation distributed over \$96,000 in scholarships, grants, and program support to Charter Oak State College students from 2015-2016. Consider a gift to the Charter Oak State College Foundation – please take a moment to go online at [www.CharterOak.edu/foundation/give.cfm](http://www.CharterOak.edu/foundation/give.cfm) to make your charitable tax-deductible gift. You will be recognized for your generous donation in *Connections*, the Charter Oak State College newsletter that is distributed to over 11,000 alumni and friends of the college. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the lives of our students.

On behalf of April and her classmates, thank you for making a difference.

With gratitude for your support,

Rebeka Scalia, President

## We are pleased and thankful to announce that the Women in Transition program has received a new grant from Liberty Bank Foundation in the amount of \$5,000

### Current Supporters:

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
The Charter Oak State College Foundation  
The Leipold Family Foundation

### Past Supporters:

The Aurora Women and Girls Foundation, The Women and Girls’ Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation

## SARA Membership Provides Benefits!



NC-SARA, (the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements), [www.nc-sara.org](http://www.nc-sara.org),

has approved Charter Oak State College, ([www.CharterOak.edu](http://www.CharterOak.edu)), for membership. SARA was developed to establish a state-level reciprocity process to support the nation in efforts to increase educational attainment by making state authorizations more efficient, effective, and less costly.

Shirley Adams, Provost, Charter Oak State College, said the agreement primarily benefits students. "It allows easier access for students to take courses across state lines," said Adams, "as well as simplifying the process for accredited colleges."

Previously, Charter Oak would seek out approvals to operate from each individual state and also pay that state's annual fee. The College estimates the annual savings to be approximately \$15,000. "Being a SARA approved state means the College now has one set of standards to meet instead of 50 different standards," said Adams.

Participation in SARA is voluntary for states and institutions. It is administered by the four regional education compacts – in New England that compact is the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE). Membership is open to degree-granting postsecondary institutions from all sectors (public colleges and universities; independent institutions, both non-profit and for profit) accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. 🌱

# happenings

**The College retained its NEASC re-accreditation** in January after an extensive year-long review process. Administrators and staff prepared for most of 2016 for the rigorous review culminating in a 3-day site visit by the NEASC accrediting team in early November. We are proud to continue to offer students and alumni the knowledge that Charter Oak State College is a member in good standing with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.



**The Admissions Department continues to host well attended Open House events** at the College to offer informational sessions to interested prospects. Master's degree events in November, January, and March drew many serious candidates and an Undergrad event in January exceeded attendance expectations with standing room only! We are gratified that people are taking the time to understand the value of a Charter Oak education. Open House dates can always be found at [CharterOak.edu](http://CharterOak.edu).



**Health Information Management Program Director, Cindy Glewwe Edgerton**, has authored a chapter in the newest edition of HIM textbook Health Information Management: Concepts, Principles, and Practice. The textbook is the primary AHIMA textbook that prepares students for the RHIA exam. It is used in most HIM bachelor's programs across the country including Charter Oak's. Edgerton wrote Chapter 16, Healthcare Statistics, which is used in several HIM courses and to prepare for the statistics questions in the RHIA exam.



**Charter Oak student, Holly Palmer**, was elected Chair of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System (CSCU) Student Advisory Committee (SAC). In that role, she serves on the Board of Regents as a voting member and represents the 88,000 students attending the CSCU institutions. She has been an active member of SAC for the past 3 years and has served as secretary and finished out a term for another representative as vice-chair. Palmer is also a council member of the Charter Oak State College Student Association. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree and plans to graduate in May. We are very proud to have a student representative on the committee.

## connections

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**Fall Registration**

Open 4/10

Classes start 8/28

***Spread the Word!* Fellow alums, friends, coworkers, family!**