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From the Desk of the Provost

Charter Oak State College has undergone a lot of changes this summer. We have hired a new undergraduate dean, Dr. Dana Wilkie; a new registrar, Jennifer Washington; a new clerical assistant in academic advising, Jennifer Schaefer, a new coordinator of alumni and corporate affairs, Nancy Taylor and a new graduate intern in institutional effectiveness, Jake Soffronoff. Unfortunately, we will be losing two staff members as well—Dr. Barry Vroeginday, director of distance learning and Sam Irizarry, admissions counselor. Both positions will be filled.

In addition to the staffing changes, the IDS 101 cornerstone course and thirty upper level credit requirements went into effect for all students who matriculated after July 1, 2010. Colleges are being asked to demonstrate that the students they enroll can have a successful college career and graduate having mastered the stated learning outcomes. The IDS 101 course was implemented to help guarantee that our students have the skills needed to succeed at Charter Oak. The upper level credit requirement, along with the capstone requirement which was implemented last year, will allow us to demonstrate that our students are graduating with a solid and rigorous education.

We have also undergone a number of changes with our student information system and with our online course management system. Some of the changes have not gone as smoothly as we would have liked, and we apologize for any inconvenience that has caused. However, once the student system is fully implemented, it will provide the students with easy access to their academic information and allow us to better track student progress.

Charter Oak ended its fiscal year with an increase in matriculated students and course enrollments. If the enrollment pattern holds for the fall, fall enrollment will also increase. As our enrollment increases, which is one of our strategic goals, we want to make sure that we continue to provide quality service. Our surveys of our graduates have shown that our students who graduate are very satisfied with our services. This year we will add a “new student” survey to provide us with additional data and we will be surveying those who dropped out to see if students left because of dissatisfaction with the college or for other reasons. I hope you are enjoying the summer and gearing up for your classes this fall!

Shirley M. Adams

UPDATE is edited by
 Gale Terrill, Graduation
 Coordinator & Assistant to
 the Provost



Graduation News



Commencement Day June 6, 2010

Commencement Day was cloudy and tornadoes were predicted, but luckily never materialized. It did rain, but not until all of the graduates were safely seated in the auditorium. Hallelujah! This year we decided not to tempt mother nature by planning an outdoor reception, which worked out rather well! Approximately 150 students participated and over a thousand guests jammed the auditorium to share their pride and joy with the graduates. Charter Oak staff enjoyed the chance to meet our students and their families, and we are very proud that a Charter Oak degree has, or will open, doors to new jobs, job promotions and graduate schools.

This year we had 468 graduates. Of those 59% were female. The average age was 40 and the ages ranged from 16 to 80. 59% of the graduates were from Connecticut. Graduates represented 36 states and 12 countries, as well as graduates serving overseas in the armed services.

Charter Oak awarded an honorary doctorate to [Astrid Hanzalek](#) (right). As a member of Connecticut's House of Representatives (1971-1981), Mrs. Hanzalek took a leadership role in the creation of the BSAA, the governing body for Charter Oak State College and the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium.



L-R President Ed Klonoski, Dean of Faculty Patrice Farquharson, Dr. Astrid Hanzalek

She served as a member of the BSAA Board from 1998 until 2009 and was appointed by Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell, in 2007, as Board Chair, a position she held until last year. On the occasion of her appointment as Chair, she commented, "I am more convinced than ever that Charter Oak State College plays an important role in the state's opportunities for higher education and that the College fulfills the need for an ever-growing population of adult students..."

Our honorary degree recipient has been recognized on numerous occasions for her lifelong dedication, leadership and public service in public policy and environmental organizations. She has served as Board member and Chair of the Commission on Culture and Tourism's Historic Preservation Museum Committee and Board member of the Connecticut Humanities Council. For her work to preserve historic landmarks in Connecticut, she was honored with Governor Rell's Distinguished Advocates Award. She has also served as Chairman of the Connecticut River Watershed Council, was a founder and board member of the Suffield Land Conservancy, Board member of Riverfront Recapture and the Connecti-



cut Forest and Park Association, founding member of the Department of Environmental Protection's Greenways Council, served as a director of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and has been an avid supporter of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.

She has additionally served as Chairman of the Connecticut State Ethics Commission and Vice-Chairman of the Bradley International Airport Commission.



Lisa Wildman (left), Senior Contracts and Negotiations Specialist with IBM, gave the “Message from the Graduates.” Here are some excerpts from her speech.

Lisa noted that “my main worry about graduation day was how I would walk across this stage without tears rolling down my face because I know it took me 11 years to get here. Will I have the chance to meet and thank any of the professors I have had the fortune to learn from, and my advisor Karen Collies, who encouraged me to earn my Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership? Would everyone around me know how grateful I am for the experience I have had here at Charter Oak? How will I thank everyone who has enabled me to reach this goal in my life? . . .”

“One of the advantages of Charter Oak State College is the long distance learning experience because we now know how to utilize technology to enable us to reach out and communicate with each other effectively. In this expanding global work environment , we are now ready to add value to our current jobs or those jobs we are about to seek because we have the skills to network and communicate effectively outside of a traditional in person setting. Today many companies recruit talent from all over the world, and relocating employees is not always an option. With the challenges of teams and different geographies around the world, employees need rise to the challenge of effective ways to communicate between different time zones. . .”

“I encourage you to take advantage of every face to face moment you have in your job, personal activities, or time spent with family and friends to network. If you have not already turned to say hello to the fellow graduate sitting next to you, I encourage you to reach out, shake their hand to congratulate them and learn one new thing about them. As of today we all have at least one thing in common, Charter Oak State College is our Alma Mater. . .”

If you are going to be graduating during this coming year, plan now to attend graduation on Sunday, June 5, 2011. You'll find it a wonderful way to say to yourself—a job well done.

I hope to meet you at graduation next year!

Gale Terrill
Graduation and Commencement Coordinator





Award Recipients for the Graduating Class of 2010

The **Doris G. Cassidy Award** was established by Connecticut's Board for State Academic Awards in recognition of Ms. Cassidy's life-long commitment to adult education and to Charter Oak State College. Ms. Cassidy served as a founding member of the Board, established the Charter Oak State College Foundation and served as its volunteer executive director. Currently she serves as Assistant Director of Academic Programs at the College and is an Academic Advisor to students pursuing concentrations in history and the humanities.

In addition, Ms. Cassidy (above) was the first Chair of the Board for State Academic Awards and a member of the Board for 10 years. She was instrumental in the 1977 establishment of the Connecticut Open Learning Assistance Corporation, known today as the Charter Oak State College Foundation.

Cognizant of the need for outside funding to support development of new Charter Oak programs, Mrs. Cassidy, as the first executive director of the Foundation, worked closely with Dr. Bernard Shea, the College's first president "to provide support for the purposes of the College if state funding was lost." It was intended that Foundation resources would make it possible for members of the public to continue receiving advisement, testing, and other services that make open access to academic credentials a reality.

The Doris G. Cassidy Award is presented each year to those graduates of Charter Oak who have achieved excellence in innovative learning and who exemplify the essence of the Charter Oak mission. Recipients are selected from the graduates of the College for the twelve-month academic year immediately preceding the spring commencement exercise. The award is announced and presented once a year during the graduation ceremony.

Doris G. Cassidy Award Winners

Kyna E. Hively, Philadelphia, Tennessee, Bachelor of Arts in History.

Matthew D. Muto, West Brookfield, Massachusetts, Bachelor of Science in History.

Rosalba Rincon, Waterbury, Connecticut, Bachelor of Science in Child Studies.

Rodney Rios, Mobile, Alabama, Bachelor of Science in Individualized Studies.

Christopher J. Rohland, Danbury, Connecticut, Bachelor of Science in Individualized Studies.

Samuel A. Salo, Greendale, Wisconsin, Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies.

Jason B. Shearer, Syracuse, Utah, Bachelor of Science in Individualized Studies.

Mary E. S. Townsend, Socorro, Texas, Bachelor of Science in Individualized Studies.

Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance

Each year the Connecticut General Assembly recognizes graduates from all of the colleges and universities in Connecticut for their academic achievements:

John H. Bensenhaver, Middletown, Connecticut, Bachelor of Science in History.

Peter H. Bergenholtz, Rocky Hill, Connecticut, Bachelor of Science in Individualized Studies.

Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL) Honor Society Induction

ASL Chapters are in regionally accredited colleges and universities that offer two- or four-year degrees to nontraditional/adult students. Charter Oak students selected for induction must be matriculated and have a minimum of 24 graded semester hours at Charter Oak. Members shall be selected only from the highest ten percent of the class and must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Charter Oak may also honor faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to its adult students. Congratulations to the new inductees as noted on the following page!

<p>Students: Sheila Allas, WV Lori J. Borysewicz, CT Faith E. Buckley, CT Yvarlene Carrion, CT Carmen D. Conyer, CT Donna M. Cordone, CT Vickie T. Fabrizio, CT Olive A. Flynn, CT</p>	<p>Valerie J. Galinski-Beaudry, CT Mark D. Johnson, FL Kevin W. Kinsey, AZ Jamie L. Lemieux, CT Katherine Lussier, CT Roy A. Nelson, CT Amber L. Otero, CT Diane Dempsey Pappacoda, CT Linda G. Pikul, CT</p>	<p>Christopher P. Potter, AL John P. Prinssen, CT Willie Randall, CT Cheryl Reme, CT Laura R. Ronda, CA Sylvia M. Veronneau, CT Jane E. Vizi, CT Jeffrey P. Ward, CT Marzena B. Wilewicz, NY</p>
<p>Faculty: Dr. Deborah Bradford, Distance Learning faculty Dr. Richard H. Calder Distance Learning faculty</p>	<p>Prof. John C. DeCarlo Distance Learning faculty Dr. Gregory S. Erianne Core faculty</p>	<p>Prof. Carolyn Kershaw Distance Learning faculty Dr. Carol Mowen Distance Learning faculty</p>
<p>Staff: Karen Colliers. Academic Counselor</p>	<p>Dr. Ann Marie Gagnon Academic Counselor</p>	

Graduation Highlights, June 6, 2010

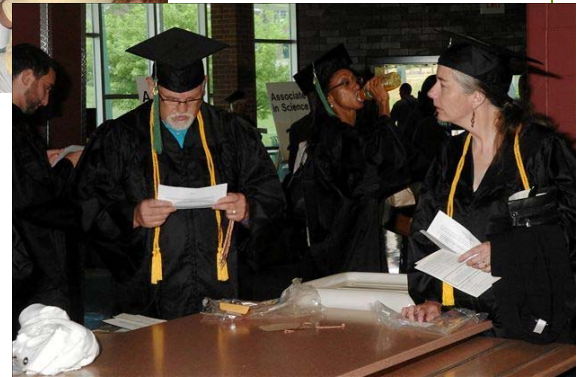
“Brunch and Processional”



“Before”



“During”



“Getting Ready”



President Ed Klonoski

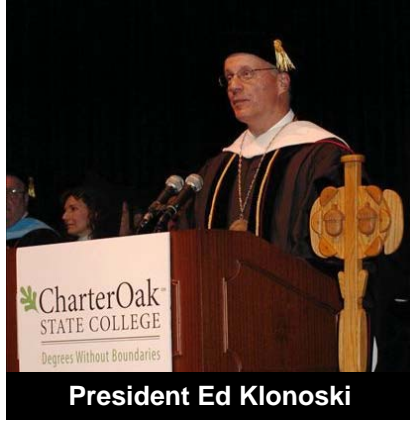
Processing to the Auditorium



Graduation Highlights, June 6, 2010



Lenny Winkler, Board Chair



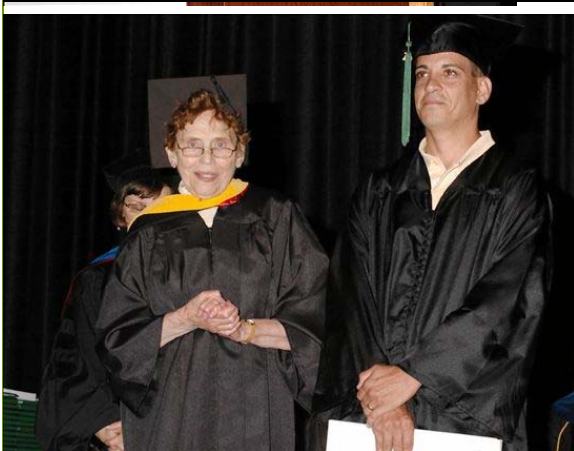
President Ed Klonoski



Dr. LeGrow inducting newest ASL members



Alpha Sigma Lambda inductees



Doris Cassidy and Cassidy awardee Rodney Rios



Student Speaker Lisa Wildman



Attentive Graduates!



Commencement speaker Astrid Hanzalek





Online graduation application/survey!

The graduation application/survey has been combined into one document and is now available online. If you are completing a bachelor's degree, please complete the baccalaureate survey available at

<https://survey.charteroak.edu/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=WNBGA8> .

If you are completing an associate's degree, please complete the associate survey at

<https://survey.charteroak.edu/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=J6NG4B>

There is no penalty for submitting your graduation application/survey early, in fact, it's encouraged. This way the Registrar's staff, your academic counselor and the graduation coordinator can be on the lookout for your final transcript(s). You may even be able to graduate sooner than you expect!

The application/survey is used to help us improve our service and to alert us to any problems that you may have had with your Charter Oak experience. We also like to hear about the good stuff, too! Each survey is read by the Provost and the Academic Dean, so make your voice heard!



Graduation Deadlines

PLEASE pay attention to these **DEADLINES** as they are strictly enforced.

If you are required to submit the Academic Autobiography, please note that faculty must **APPROVE** it **FOUR MONTHS** in advance of the transcript deadline.

Graduation Date:	Graduation Application,/ Survey due by:	Transcript Deadline and Graduation Fee due by:
Jan. 31	Sept. 30	Dec. 31
March 31	Nov. 30	Feb. 28
May 31	Jan. 31	April 30
July 31	Mar. 31	June 30
Sept. 30	May 31	Aug. 31
Nov. 30	July 31	Oct. 31



Criteria for Letters Confirming Your Graduation

We receive a number of requests from students asking that a letter be sent to a college or to an employer verifying the date of their graduation. We are more than happy to honor this request. However, you should **not** make the request unless the following criteria have **ALL** been met:

1. Your academic autobiography or your concentration and essay has been **approved**.
2. You have submitted your graduation application and survey (see deadlines for submission).
3. You have completed **all** academic requirements (contact your academic counselor).
4. **All** of your transcripts have been **received** by Charter Oak.
5. **All** fees have been paid (including the graduation fee).
6. **All financial aid requirements** have been completed. (**EXIT INTERVIEW**)

When you have met the above criteria, requests should be made in writing to the Graduation Coordinator, Gale Terrill, 55 Paul J. Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT 06053 or email gterrill@charteroak.edu. The request should include the name, title and address of the recipient.



When will you receive your diploma?

Charter Oak graduates students six times per year, and diplomas are mailed/distributed four times per year. **July graduates** will receive their diplomas in mid-September. **September and November graduates** will receive their diplomas in mid-January. **January and March** graduates will receive their diplomas following the June commencement ceremony (if they do not attend). **May graduates** will receive their diploma in mid-July.

Please note that **students will not receive their diplomas if they have any HOLD on their record** such as not completing the financial aid exit interview or if there is an outstanding balance on their account.





Distance Learning News

Fall 2010 New Course Offerings

Thirteen new online courses will be offered in the fall. They include MUS 315 Form and Analysis, PLG 399 Paralegal Practicum, PLG 314 Real Estate Law, PLG 412 Insurance Law, ECE 176 Health, Safety and Nutrition: Birth-8, ENG 105 (English Comp 1 (Bilingual)), ITE 410 Software Engineering; and PLG 211 Criminal Law. For additional courses, visit our web site at <https://acorn.charteroak.edu/ics/>

New capstone courses are also being offered for the following concentrations: Information Systems Studies, Judaic Studies, Psychology, Organizational Leadership, and Paralegal. The capstone course is required for all bachelor's degree students who matriculated after July 1, 2009. In this 3 credit course, students will be required to show mastery of the outcomes of the concentration. A minimum grade of "C" must be earned to meet the requirements of the concentration.



New Cornerstone course requirement for students enrolling AFTER July 1, 2010

The Cornerstone course is a requirement for all students who matriculate after July 1, 2010 and the "first" course they pursue. This course will provide students with an in-depth understanding of the nature of the COSC degree and keys to success in an online program. This course will also provide students with an understanding of what college level writing is, why it is important, and why skills in critical thinking and problem solving are so important in an online learning setting. In addition, this course will guide students through the Concentration Plan of Study (CPS) process through writing a resume and exploring one's own career development.



Course Evaluation Survey

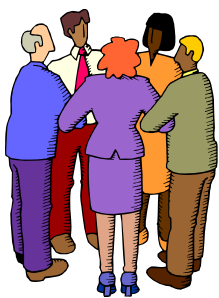
The Distance Learning Office and Office of Institutional Effectiveness would like to thank students for making the new online course evaluation survey a success this past year. This spring, over 50% of all students responded to the survey, sharing their level of agreement with eleven statements about course characteristics and providing an overall rating of the instructor and course. Students' overall ratings of their courses and instructors were positive; 79 % of students rated the overall effectiveness of their instructor as "High" or "Very High" and 82% of students rated the overall effectiveness of their course as "High" or "Very High."



In addition to the overall ratings, students provided valuable comments about their courses. The more information the college collects, the better we will be able to design and offer courses that meet student needs. We hope that an even larger percentage of students will participate in online course evaluation this fall.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness will email links to the online course evaluation survey for each course during the final week of instruction. Students will receive a separate email for each course in which they are enrolled. Each link is only valid for the course listed in the email and can only be used once.

If you have any questions about the new course evaluation survey system, please contact David Hemenway, Director of Institutional Effectiveness at dhemenway@charteroak.edu



Faculty News

New Faculty Members Joining Charter Oak State College

Math, Science and Technology

Joseph L. Manthey has a Ph.D. in Computational and Applied Mathematics from Old Dominion University; M.S. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Central Florida; and a B.S. in Mathematics-Physics and Education from University of Wisconsin. He is an associate professor of mathematics at Saint Joseph College where his teaching includes contemporary mathematics, statistics, mathematical probability, calculus, multivariable calculus and complex variables. He also developed a mathematics course for future high school teachers and an elementary modeling course for biology majors. In addition he has taught other courses including linear algebra, introduction to computer science, Fortran, and numerical analysis. In addition to the strong mathematical background, he brings knowledge of computer science, training in a number of computer languages, training on BlackBoard, experience working with programs in education, academic counseling experience, and practical research experience.

Business

Dimitrios S. Pachis has a Ph.D. and M.A. in Economics from University of Massachusetts, an M.B.A. in marketing from University of Hartford, and a B.S. in Business/Economics from University of Piraeus in Greece. He is a professor of economics at Eastern Connecticut State University. He also served as their chief academic officer from 1991-2007. He is well published in the field of economics. He is currently working on two publications—“Promoting Efficiency and Cost Control in Higher Education: Decision Making Tools and Practices”, and “Implications of University Branding for Institutional Cohesion and Effectiveness.”

Social and Behavioral Science

Vicki Bozzuto has a M.Ed. from Cambridge College (Thesis on Meeting National Standards for Radiologic Technology Education Programs), B.S in Intermediate Education from Southern Connecticut State University, and an A.S. in Radiation Therapy from South Central Community College. She is currently the Director of Allied Health at Gateway Community College. She supervises A.S. degree programs in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Dietetics, and the General Studies tracks in Pre-Dental Hygiene, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Radiation Therapy, and Radiography as well as numerous credit and noncredit certificate programs. She has taught courses in radiation therapy and oncology and has been a practicing radiation therapist. She also has a wealth of experience in grant writing, accreditation report writing, and site visitations.

History and Humanities

Avinoam J. Patt has a Ph.D. in Hebrew and Judaic Studies and Modern European History from New York University and a B.A. in Religion with Judaic Studies concentration from Emory University. He currently holds the assistant professor, Philip D. Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History chair and is the Assistant Director, The Maurice Greenburg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford. Before coming to the University of Hartford, he was an applied research scholar and the director of the Jewish Source Study Initiative for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies in Washington, D.C. His background includes serving as an historical advisor on new excavations at the Sobibor Death Camp, doing editorial work on the YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe, and publishing three books, numerous articles, museum catalogs, web publications, and book reviews. Publications include, Finding Home and Homeland: Jewish Youth and Zionism in the Aftermath of the Holocaust; “Cultural Work in the Kibbutz: Zionist Function and Fantasy for Jewish DP Youth”, and Jewish Response to Persecution. He has taught a number of courses, including American Jewish History, American Jewish Fiction, Jewish Film, Modern Jewish History, and The Jews of England. He has received numerous awards and fellowships. He is fluent in English and Hebrew and has conversation and reading Yiddish.



Staff News



New Staff at Charter Oak!



Introducing Jennifer Schaefer

The Academic Counseling Office is pleased to welcome Jennifer Schaefer as Clerical Assistant for the department. She is the owner of the cheerful voice that greets you when you call the Academic Counseling line (860.832.3884) and who responds to or triages the messages that come in through advising@charteroak.edu. She recently came to Charter Oak from the University of Hartford where she served in a similar capacity for the Department of Architecture. She looks forward to working with you!

Introducing Nancy Taylor

Lori Gagne Pendleton, Director of Admissions, is pleased to announce that Nancy Taylor is the new Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Corporate Recruitment. In this role, Nancy is responsible for outreach to Alumni and also for developing and managing relationships with corporate partners.

Nancy will concentrate on recruiting more alumni to serve as ambassadors for the College. “Our Alumni are the most valuable resource we have,” says Nancy. “More students hear about Charter Oak through word of mouth than any other source. Since Charter Oak graduates are exceptionally happy with their experience at the College they are a great source of referrals. I’m looking forward to working with all of our current students as they transition to becoming alumni.”

In addition, Nancy will work with others at the College to develop partnerships with employers. Current students can play a role here by suggesting their places of business as a possible source for a new partnership.

Nancy can be reached at nataylor@charteroak.edu or 860-832-3863.

Introducing Jennifer Washington

Jennifer Washington has assumed the position of Registrar, succeeding Pat Derech, who served as Registrar for nearly 30 years. Jennifer previously served as Registrar at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Introducing Dana Wilkie

Dr. Dana Wilkie has been appointed Academic Dean, Undergraduate Programs. Her responsibilities will include the management and training of the Charter Oak distance learning faculty and the implementation of undergraduate academic policies and programs. She will also oversee the assessment of Charter Oak’s academic programs and the College’s online library; will lead the distance learning program growth and development. She will also advise Charter Oak Provost, Dr. Shirley Adams, on a variety of educational matters.

Dr. Wilkie previously served as Assistant Dean of Domestic Programs at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.



Student News and Services



Volunteer for the Charter Oak State College Student Association!

Investing just a few hours per semester will get **You** and your **Fellow Students** . . .

- a voice in shaping programs that are offered both on-ground and online.
- the opportunity to meet, share experiences, and swap tips; and the satisfaction that you have made a contribution to a great institution like Charter Oak.

Those same few hours help the **College**. . .

- plan relevant and interesting programs and events;
- access your creativity and good ideas;
- gain firsthand knowledge about student needs and interests; and make Charter Oak even more responsive to its adult learner population through student, faculty, and administration interaction.

By volunteering for the Student Association, we all benefit!

It's **EASY** – all you need to do is to volunteer to serve as an officer or council member.

We ask that you attend just 2 or 3 short meetings per year in person or by telephone.

You bring your ideas and we'll provide the pizza and a forum for you to plan for the College. Enjoy the camaraderie of other adult students seeking their degrees through Charter Oak. You'll find that you have lots in common.

Interested? Contact Linda Larkin at llarkin@charteroak.edu or by telephone at (860) 832-3841.

Thank you!



Scholarship money available!

Scholarship dollars are available, so if you feel that you fit the criteria, please e-mail Marlene Woodman mwoodman@charteroak.edu for an application, complete it and e-mail it back.

The Hawes scholarship is offering two awards of \$800 each. The following criteria are used for selecting the recipients:

- Is pursuing a business concentration,
- Demonstrates qualities of leadership and commitment to community, and
- Demonstrates the potential to make positive contributions within a business environment.

The scholarship can be used to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books or other educational expenses.

The Patricelli Scholarship is offering a \$700 award. The following criteria are used for selecting the recipient:

- Resident of Hartford, Connecticut.
- Is Pell eligible (economically disadvantaged) and
- In good academic standing.

The scholarship can be used to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books or other educational expenses.

Application Process for the Patricelli Scholarship:

- Completely fill out the application form.
- Submit a well-written essay articulating your academic, personal and professional goals, and how you meet the scholarship criteria above. Your essay should be neatly typed, double-spaced and not longer than 250-300 words (about one and half pages, double-spaced).
- Submit a separate statement detailing your financial need.

Contact Marlene Woodman for an application mwoodman@charteroak.edu or 860-832-3876.

Application deadline for both scholarships is October 30, 2010