

# alumNEWS

Spring 2018



*Stephanie Zhang '13*



**SCHENECTADY**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

## ON THE COVER:

Stephanie Zhang '13,  
*Performing Arts: Music, at  
the SCCC Foundation's Food  
for Thought and All That  
Jazz event in April 2017.*

## alumNEWS

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## Dear Alumni and Friends,

This past January while flying from Zambia to London, I reread *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, a former professor of Computer Science, Human Computer Interaction, and Design at Carnegie Mellon University. He, like I, credits his parents as the number one reason he was able to achieve his goals. He states, "I won the parent lottery. I was born with the winning ticket, a major reason why I was able to live out my dreams."

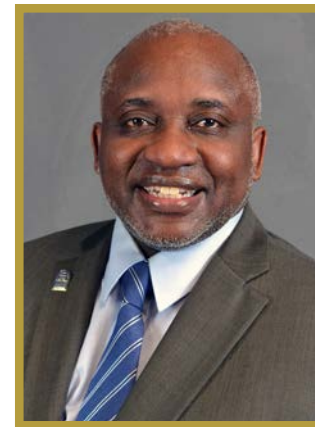
Ironically, Pausch's parents were not wealthy. What he describes in his book are parents who had a vested interest in him – they supported him in his dreams, provided him with the mentoring and "tenderness" he needed and were his vision supporters. It was that "alongside" support that helped him accomplish his goals.

In the same way, SUNY Schenectady County Community College – through our faculty and staff, academic and support programs, and student services – is an anchor to many of our students. We are the vision supporters that enable students of all ages, backgrounds, and interests to achieve their dreams.

And, we thank you for doing your part in ensuring that we continue to be the "winning ticket."

Sincerely,

**Steady H. Moono, Ed.D.**  
President



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Music In The Air

*Professors Team Up for Capital Region Wind Ensemble's Release the Hounds*

The Capital Region Wind Ensemble (CRWE) goes to the dogs on Sunday, May 20, at 3 p.m., with this program inspired by our canine companions. For some alumni there will be a familiar voice as part of the concert. Dr. Dean Bennett, Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts, will join the group to narrate Scott Watson's *Aesop's Fables*. "Professor Bennett is no stranger to the concert stage having earned his A.S. in Performing Arts: Music from SUNY SCCC," said Professor Brett L. Wery, CRWE Music Director. "He is a confident, personable speaker who reads music very well. It seemed like a no-brainer to ask him to do this narration, which is an added treat for the audience."

Jacqueline Wright, CRWE's Principal Flutist, will be in the spotlight for a performance of Joel Pluckett's *Into the Clouds* from *The Shadow of Sirius*. The program also includes Professor Wery's *Dance Suite for Wind Ensemble*.



Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students; SUNY SCCC students are free. For more information, please call 518-381-1231 or e-mail [werybl@sunysccc.edu](mailto:werybl@sunysccc.edu).

### Chorus

Monday, April 23, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Free

### Jazz and Percussion Ensembles

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Free.

### Guitar Ensemble

Monday, April 30, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Free.

### Chamber Ensemble

Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Free.

### Jazz Combos

Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Free.

### Wind Ensemble

Friday, May 4, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Free.

### Vocal Chamber Ensemble

Monday, May 7, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Free.

*All concerts take place in the Carl B. Taylor Community Auditorium.*

## Sharing a Love for Music with Students in the Electric City

At the age of 12, Stephanie Zhang '13 decided that mastering the flute just wasn't enough for her. So, she dusted off the saxophone that her brother wasn't using anymore and taught herself to play. She didn't stop there.

Next came a trumpet that she bought on craigslist, and then the trombone and clarinet. She was a student at Mont Pleasant Middle School in Schenectady and her house was always full of music. "My mom once told me that she learned to tune it out," Stephanie joked.

Now, she sees a bit of herself in some of the 12- and 13-year-olds she teaches during individual music lessons and band rehearsals. In this full-circle story, the students she sees every day attend Mont Pleasant Middle School where Stephanie is the sole band teacher at her alma mater.

She's giving small group lessons in woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments and then conducting rehearsals for the school's four performing groups: Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Percussion Ensemble (a group she started). There are students playing the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, percussion instruments, and even the euphonium (a smaller version of the tuba). She's really enjoying working with the middle schoolers. "There is a lot of potential in my students," she said. "There's

an energy that they bring forth that I haven't seen in other levels. It's a different curiosity. They want to try everything."

In order to teach them, Stephanie needed to know how to play all of the instruments. When she studied Performing Arts: Music at SUNY SCCC, graduating in 2013, she gained a firm foundation in woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments. "At SUNY SCCC, I learned how to play the instruments and how to teach them," she said.

When she transferred to Ithaca College's School of Music for her bachelor's degree in Music Education, oboe, bassoon, and tuba were added to the list. It was after student teaching in Ithaca and Guilderland that Stephanie joined the faculty at Mont Pleasant in 2015 and she's glad to be in the Electric City. "I get a sense that I'm really giving back to the community. I grew up in Schenectady, went to Schenectady High School and then SUNY SCCC, and Schenectady is a big part of who I am," she said. "Being able to give back is a very accomplished feeling."



*"When I was at SUNY SCCC, Professor Wery pushed me to understand what being a musician is. He has a very detailed way of practicing that gets the job done. I use a lot of what he taught me about how to practice with my students now: practicing at a slower tempo and gradually building up speed to increase your efficiency, practicing with a lot of repetitions, and singing your music. Even if you play an instrument, singing is a great way to really understand how the line of music goes and the flow, and how to translate that onto your instrument."*

**More about Stephanie Zhang:** When she's not teaching, Stephanie takes the stage playing alto saxophone and trumpet for West Side Drive, a dance band in the Capital Region, and tenor sax for the Capital Region Wind Ensemble in residence at SUNY SCCC, which is conducted by Professor Brett Wery of the College's School of Music. She is also a student in the master's degree program in Music Education, with a Conducting Specialization, through Colorado State University.

## Celebrating Dr. William Meckley's 34 Years of Vision, Artistry & Leadership



After 34 years at SUNY SCCC, Dr. William Meckley, Dean of the School of Music, is retiring this spring. Thanks to Dr. Meckley, the School of Music is among the most respected academic institutions for music learning throughout the country. His steadfast dedication to students inspired the creation of the Meckley Music Scholarship.

To contribute, please contact: (518) 381-1324; [scccfoundation@sunysccc.edu](mailto:scccfoundation@sunysccc.edu).

## Trustco Bank Invests in New Fraud Prevention Program



Trustco Bank donated \$10,000 to the College, including five \$1,000 scholarships. Pictured in the Business Center are: Patrick Ryan, Vice President of Administration, SUNY SCCC; Michael Hall, Vice President of Compliance, Trustco Bank; Dr. Steady Moono, President, SUNY SCCC; Robert Leonard, Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, Trustco Bank; Dr. Michael Roggow, Dean of the Division of Business, Criminal Justice, and Law, SUNY SCCC; Dr. Penny Haynes, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs & Provost, SUNY SCCC; and Jennifer Meadows, Assistant Vice President of the Bank Secrecy Act Department, Trustco Bank.

This fall, the College will offer a new certificate program in Bank Financial Security and Money Laundering Prevention in partnership with Trustco Bank.

"This certificate program is the first of its kind," said Dr. Michael Roggow, Dean of the Division of Business, Criminal Justice, and Law. "We are thrilled to partner with Trustco Bank in creating a program to educate employees of financial institutions about the important issues surrounding loss prevention."

While the new certificate program is designed to train current bank employees to detect instances of money laundering and fraud in personal and commercial accounts, it is ideal for anyone interested in professional opportunities in banking industry forensics.

Robert Leonard, Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer for Trustco, said, "Under the Bank Secrecy Act, financial institutions play a vital role in identifying potential money laundering, possible terrorism financing, and other illegal banking activities. This certificate will provide the necessary training needed to have a strong BSA department."

## College Inks Transfer Agreements with SUNY Cobleskill and Empire State English



Dr. Steady Moono, President of SUNY SCCC, and Dr. Marion Terenzio, President of SUNY Cobleskill, sign a new Biotechnology transfer agreement.

Students who graduate from the College's Biotechnology A.S. degree program or the Biological Technician A.A.S program, some of the newest at the College, will now be able to transfer seamlessly into SUNY Cobleskill's 120-credit Biotechnology B.S. degree program.

"This agreement provides a future of unlimited possibilities for Biotechnology students to advance in their careers in fields that are shaping the world," said Dr. Marion Terenzio, President of SUNY Cobleskill. "It is a testimony to our commitment to educational innovation and our desire to create pathways that help every student achieve their goals."



Eileen Lee, Academic Director, and Kim Andersen, Founder and Director, both of Empire State English, with Dr. Steady Moono, President, and Sabrina McGinty, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs at SUNY SCCC.

"Sometimes in order to be successful, a student simply needs extra help and guidance to start them on their way," said Dr. Steady Moono, President, after signing an agreement between the College and Empire State English, an organization in Albany that helps non-native English speakers achieve their personal, professional, and academic goals.

The new partnership allows international students to obtain conditional admission to the College and attend intensive English classes prior to beginning their academic program. "Through this partnership, we hope to foster global connections and establish a collaborative approach to supporting international students," said Kim Andersen, Founder and Director of Empire State English.

## The Chance of a Lifetime

Rolling up her sleeves in the kitchen is 13-year-old Kyla Wiggins's idea of fun. "I love to cook," the Mont Pleasant Middle School student said. "It's a way for me to get away, have fun, listen to music, help out, and have people enjoy the food."

The hobby she picked up at the age of 6 while going to the Mont Pleasant Boys and Girls Club has blossomed into a goal of someday owning her own restaurant. So she and her mother Kristen Shelley were thrilled to find out last month that Kyla will be one of 32 students in the new Smart Transfer Early College High School Program (ST-ECHS). At no cost to her family, Kyla will be able to earn an associate's degree in Business Administration while she is still a student at Schenectady High School. When she graduates in 2022, she will not only have a high school diploma, but a college degree as well.

This summer, Kyla will be part of the inaugural group taking two classes on campus, earning four college credits during the program made possible through a \$1 million grant from the New York State Education Department. She will take college courses at Schenectady High School during her 9th and 10th grade school years and at SUNY SCCC during the summers.

Her 11th and 12th grade years will be spent taking courses full time at the College. After 12th grade, she plans to transfer as a junior for her bachelor's degree. "I'm really excited to have this opportunity," said the young woman who also loves swimming, drawing, and reading. "It's been my dream to go to SUNY SCCC for my first college and then transfer for my bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts." (Her mother Kristen '95 and sister Kiara Shelley '14 are both alumni who went on to earn bachelor's degrees.)

In addition to Schenectady High School, the College will partner with the University at Albany and SUNY Delhi. Both institutions have committed to accepting students into their institutions upon successful completion of program requirements.



Kyla Wiggins, Schenectady High School student, and her mother Kristen Shelley '95.



Pamela McCall, Director of College and High School Partnerships, and Valerie Smith, Interim Grant Coordinator for Smart Transfer and Program Coordinator for Smart Scholars

*"It's amazing how these students are already thinking about their futures. They have dreams of being teachers, doctors, lawyers, and earning their doctorates. They understand that this is an honor to be selected into this program and that it will not only lessen the burden of debt for them and their families, but also give them a distinct advantage as they begin their college experience."*

*– Pamela McCall, Director of College and High School Partnerships who oversees the program.*

## Creating Pathways to Success



Student Success Coaches Harry Rolle, Michael Medina, Chelcy Moore, Janet Mattis, and Harron James.

Harron James, one of six new Success Coaches at the College, described one of the students he met with recently. "She is the sole caretaker for her parent," he explained. "She drives more than an hour

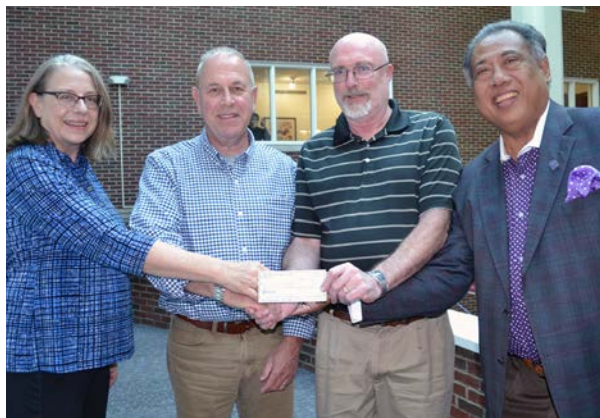
to get here every day and she's doing everything that she can to be excellent and to graduate so that she can transfer on for her bachelor's degree." Harron and his fellow Success Coaches, who started at the College this spring, guide students to campus resources including tutoring, connect them to their faculty advisors, and assist them with study skills/time management, all to ensure that they meet their goals.

The coaches are working with first-generation students through a highly-competitive \$2.25M Title III grant awarded to the College this fall by the U.S. Department of Education. They are one part of a redesign of the

student learning environment and student services area to expand the College's programs for under-served students and to increase retention. "We will be refining our advising model and building a strong network of success among our advisors and coaches," said Sabrina McGinty, Vice President of Student Affairs.

As he continues to meet with students, Harron, who has experience in higher education and K-12 in the Utica area, is gratified to watch them gain confidence and overcome challenges. "It's been a great opportunity to be chosen to reach students," he said. "I can't stress enough the amount of responsibility these students have. They're working full time, they're raising kids. Our job is to let them know there's another entity here and we want to make sure they have what they need to get the job done."

## New Scholarships

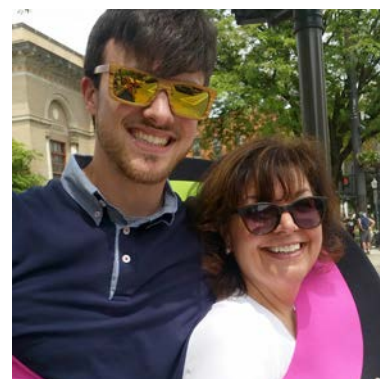


**The Chef Jackie Baldwin Memorial Scholarship** was created by friends and peers in memory of Jackie Baldwin, a vibrant personality and talented chef who was one of the few women to hold top posts in area restaurant kitchens. As Area Executive Chef for Sodexo, Jackie supervised food service at 32 college and university campuses in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The \$21,000 scholarship will assist Culinary Arts students who are energetic, passionate, and always there to help those in need.

*Laurie Hackathorn, friend of Jackie's; Dick Kotlow, SCCC Foundation Board Chair; Tom Reynolds, friend of Jackie's; and Yono Purnomo, SCCC Foundation Board Member.*

**Christian Rohr's Passion for Cooking Scholarship** was endowed at \$25,000 in Christian's memory by his mother, Laurie Garramone, who taught English courses at SUNY SCCC, the Wright Foundation, and donations from Christian's loving friends and family. Christian passed away unexpectedly at the age of 25 while hiking. He deeply enjoyed experimenting with new flavors and cooking for others. Fully embodying the joy and happiness Christian experienced in the kitchen, his scholarship supports a Culinary Arts student who is equally as passionate about cooking.

*Christian Rohr and mom, Laurie Garramone*



Victoria Barber '86 '97 '98 created the **"Find Your Place in This World" Scholarship** to support a student throughout his or her education at SUNY SCCC. Vicki returned to college while working and raising a family, and again when she was laid off from her job. After earning her A.A.S. in Electrical Technology, A.A.S. in Computer Information Systems, and A.S. in Computer Science, all from SUNY SCCC, she went on to earn her Bachelor's in Business Management from Shorter College and her M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University while living in Georgia. She credits her education at SUNY SCCC with giving her the confidence to succeed in her career at GE Power before retiring in 2014.



**The Philip R. Harris Memorial Scholarship** was endowed with a \$50,000 donation from David Harris, a longtime supporter of the College and dedicated patron of the Casola Dining Room.

The scholarship supports students in Culinary Arts and is named in memory of David's brother, who always looked forward to dining in the Casola Dining Room.

*David Harris with students outside the Casola Dining Room.*

The **Ron & Kathy Cooke Jazz Scholarship** was established with a \$4,000 donation from longtime supporters of SUNY SCCC Music, with the intent to assist jazz students in completing their education.

Funded through various events throughout the year, **Sips for Scholarships** will provide a total of \$2,000 split among four students enrolled in the Craft Beer Brewing degree or certificate, Hotel and Restaurant Management – Beverage Concentration degree, or Craft Spirit Distillation degree programs.

## New Scholarships *(Continued)*

**The Zachery Granger “Serve Your Country” Scholarship** was established by community donations and Stephanie Brackeen '16 in memory of her partner, who passed away following a motorcycle accident in September 2017. Zack was a 2015 student in the Aviation Science program who had served in the Air Force and Marines. The scholarship benefits Aviation Science students and veterans to reflect Zack's active participation in the Veterans Club and his passion for flying.



**The Susan Watson New Beginnings Pathways Scholarship** was endowed at \$25,000 in memory of Susan Watson '78 by her loving husband and family, along with contributions from Ballston Spa National Bank and community members. Susan lived her life to the fullest and touched many lives along the way. She considered education worth pursuing and important to remove barriers in life. This scholarship will assist a non-traditional student who demonstrates perseverance in obtaining an education even when life gets in the way.

## A Keystone Society Profile: Anne and Terry Phillips



Anne and Terry Phillips (pictured above) have been a part of the Schenectady community for more than 50 years. During that time, they raised three children and are now the lucky grandparents of seven grandchildren, ranging in age from 6 to 24.

In December 2017, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips notified the SCCC Foundation that they established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, with SUNY SCCC named as one of the beneficiaries.

“We are glad that the College was started nearly 50 years ago to provide higher education to those who look to improve their station in life,” said Anne. “We feel

that the education that students receive at SUNY SCCC is an excellent way to prepare them to live their dreams.” Anne and Terry are now members of the Keystone Society, a group of donors who are recognized and honored for believing passionately in students and the educational mission. Keystone Society events are held throughout the year to celebrate members and the students that they support.

In October 2017, Keystone members were invited to a special tax reform talk given by Marty Finn (pictured below, right), Founding Partner of Lavelle & Finn, LLP and Chair of the Planned Giving Committee on the SCCC Foundation Board. “Student success depends on generosity from alumni and friends who remember SUNY SCCC in their estate plans,” Marty said. Terry Phillips says his involvement on the Foundation Board over the years has given him valuable insight as to the kind of opportunities available, and he and his wife simply wanted to help support those opportunities. “We are glad to be able to make a gift that will enable SUNY SCCC to continue to provide affordable education

to Schenectady County residents and others,” he said.

Anne and Terry understand the value of higher education and its ability to change lives, and say that they give not only for their children and grandchildren to become more educated, but also for many others in the Capital Region. “Our philosophy of philanthropy encourages us to realize that we are blessed with the ability to help our community in a small way,” Terry said. “The College gives local students an opportunity that they could not have otherwise.”



To include the SCCC Foundation in your will, please ask your attorney to include the following language:

I give \_\_\_\_\_ (specific amount or property, percentage, or residue) to the tax-exempt SCCC Foundation, located in Schenectady, N.Y., for the purpose of supporting its educational programs and students. (Tax ID 23-7194187)

For more information about leaving a legacy by joining the Keystone Society, please contact (518) 381-1322.

## Class Notes

### 80s

**David Bonitatibus '83, Culinary Arts**, has retired after owning and operating two restaurants for more than 20 years.

**Christopher Miller '87, Computer Science**, is working for Tyler Technologies, a company that provides integrated software and technology services to the public sector, including cities, counties states and school districts. He lives in Slingerlands.

### 90s

**Holly Becker '95, Liberal Arts: Teacher Education**, transferred to The College of Saint Rose where she graduated in 1997 with a bachelor's degree. In 2014, she earned her master's degree from Capella University. She is currently a Certified School Counselor in Brooksville, Fla.

**Susan M. Ogden '95, Business Administration**, went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from Grand Canyon University, earning bachelor's degree in Accounting, and later earned her master's degree in Accounting and Financial Management, graduating with distinction, from DeVry University/Kellar School of Business Management. She is a Senior Accountant with the New York State Office for the Aging, an office that helps the elderly to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible.

### 00s

**Matthew Cudemo '01, Travel and Tourism**, is the Director of Hotel Operations at Saratoga Casino Hotel. He lives in Clifton Park with his girlfriend Keara and two daughters Kaitlyn, 3, and Jillian, 1.

**Soraya (Lopez) Fish '04, Liberal Arts: Science**, graduated in 2017 from Andrews University with her Master's in Public Health for Nutrition and Wellness. She works in the Community Health and Wellness Department at Lakeland Health in Michigan, and continues to work toward earning her license as a Registered Dietitian. Soraya is happily married with three children.

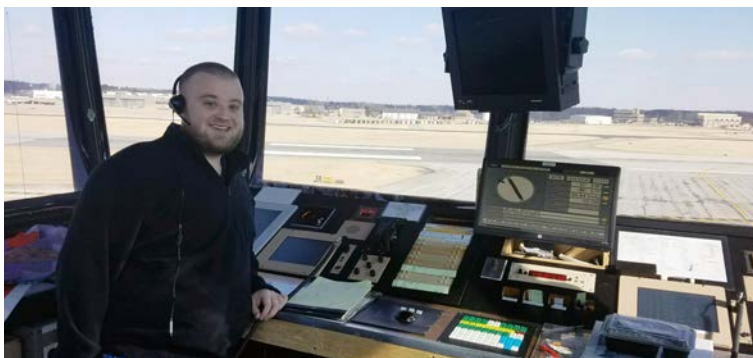
**Patricia Pendergast Novo '05, Culinary Arts**, has successfully passed the Certified Specialist of Wine Examination, as given by the Society of Wine Educators. Patti serves as President of The Advisory Board for the SUNY SCCC School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism and is an Adjunct Faculty Member teaching Wines of the World.

### 10s

**Shelia Coleman '11, '12, '13, Criminal Justice and Human Services**, went on to the University of Mass-Lowell and earned her Graduate Certificate in Victim Studies in February 2017 and her master's degree in Criminal Justice in May 2017. She works for the New York State Office of General Services as a Vendor Responsibility Research Assistant in the Design and Construction – Contract Management Division.

**Antinella Defreitas-Marshall '13, Chemical Dependency Counseling**, recently graduated from Troy University in Alabama earning her B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. She recently moved back to the Albany area.

**Michael J. Bertolini '15, Air Traffic Control**, began working as an Air Traffic Controller for Midwest ATC at Martin State Airport in Baltimore, Md., in April 2017. He loves his job and credits the program and instructors at SUNY SCCC with making his integration into the job seamless.



**Daniel Ferris '15, Liberal Arts: Humanities and Social Sciences – Drama Concentration**, is studying at Columbia University in New York City, where he is pursuing his bachelor's degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. After graduating, he plans on working as an actor and writer in New York City.



**Howie Cooper '13, Culinary Arts**, is a chef at ABunchABrunch restaurant at Via Port in Rotterdam. Pictured above.

**Mary Smith, '16, Culinary Arts/Hotel and Restaurant Management**, is the owner of ABunchABrunch restaurant at Via Port in Rotterdam. The restaurant specializes in homemade breakfast and lunch cuisine. Pictured Above.

To submit a Class Note, please visit our website at [sunysccc.edu/Alumni-Give/Alumni](http://sunysccc.edu/Alumni-Give/Alumni). We'd love to hear from you!

alumNews Online: Would you prefer that we send you the next issue electronically? Please e-mail your name, class year and e-mail address to [alumni@sunysccc.edu](mailto:alumni@sunysccc.edu) and we'll add you to our e-mail list.



## Journalist Found His Voice at SUNY SCCC

Greg Hitchcock's work focuses on telling the stories of others. But it's through telling his own story that he wants to make the most impact.

"I want to continue to be a positive influence on people who have mental illness," the journalist and documentarian said. "There have been deep ends for me and I've been able to rise above it. One of my major focuses is to raise awareness and make sure that people know that there is life after an addiction or an illness – there is life after the diagnosis."

Greg found his voice and a passion for writing as a student at SUNY SCCC in the late 80s.

He had been serving in the U.S. Army and working as a TV Radio Systems Specialist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center when he was diagnosed at the age of 19 with schizophrenia. He soon found himself as a patient in the behavioral health ward at the same hospital where he had been working just a few months prior. When he was honorably discharged and returned home to Latham, his mother Rosemary Lanahan, a longtime business professor at the College, suggested he take some classes.



He still remembers the assignment that sparked his penchant for writing and gave him the confidence he needed. He was taking a history class with Professor David Hughes and wrote an essay about the Mexican War. "Professors Hughes was very enthusiastic about the essay and it gave me a boost and let me know that I might be good at writing."

After graduating from SUNY SCCC in 1990 with his degree in Liberal Arts and then the University at Albany with his bachelor's degree in English in 1992,

Greg began covering New York State government as a writer for the Empire State Report. Work as an education reporter for The Eagle in Cambridge, N.Y., and a general beat reporter for the Leader Herald in Gloversville soon followed. He struck out on his own as a freelance writer on assignments for the Sierra Club and American Red Cross and is now telling stories as a documentary filmmaker. *Heroin in Amsterdam*, his latest documentary, examines the opioid and heroin epidemic.

Greg speaks to groups about the importance of destigmatizing mental illness, describing what he went through as a young man and the challenges he still faces. He's on the Board of the Directors of the Mental Health Association in Fulton and Montgomery Counties and describes his role this way, "It's my responsibility to make sure the non-profit is managed to the best of its ability for consumers to make sure that everybody is taken care of."

## Career and Transfer Services Still Here For You!



As an alum of SUNY SCCC, the members of the Office of Career and Transfer Services are here to help with:

- Free access to the College Central job posting system
- Access to on-campus career fairs and recruiting events
- Online resources available at [www.sunysccc.edu/cts](http://www.sunysccc.edu/cts)
- Individual career planning

Are you a business owner or recruiter? Please register your business with the office to promote your opportunities and take part in career events.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please visit the Opportunity Zone (Elston Hall, Room 221-i) Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., call (518) 836-2807 or e-mail [cts@sunysccc.edu](mailto:cts@sunysccc.edu).

## Renee Walrath Joins Foundation Board



Renee Walrath has provided staffing and recruiting services for businesses in the Capital District since 2010. Her diverse background in accounting and management in varied industries has led to her success finding executive candidates for corporate clientele. Her business has been ranked in the Top Five for Executive Search Firms by the *Albany Business Review* since 2012. Renee was elected President of the New York Staffing Association (NYSA) in January 2016. She holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Siena College.

Renee, who joined the Foundation Board this year, recently established the Walrath Recruiting "Investing in Futures" Scholarship. She was inspired by those who invested in her education and future to help her reach her goals as President and CEO of her company Walrath Recruiting, Inc., which has offices in Albany and Saratoga. The scholarship will support a female student overcoming obstacles to earn an education, who is enthusiastic about her studies and completing an education to further her career.

## Food For Thought & All That Jazz

The SCCC Foundation's 27th Annual *Food for Thought & All That Jazz* - Presented by Marshall & Sterling Upstate, with the Fabulous Beekman Boys as Honorary Co-Chairs, was a delightful evening, celebrating the students in the Culinary Arts and Music Programs, and Dr. William Meckley's 34 years of vision, artistry, and leadership. Thank you to everyone who attended this very special evening and to all of our sponsors.



L. to R: Dr. Steady Moono, President; Dick Kotlow, Foundation Board Chair; Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell of Beekman 1802; Barbara Bishop Ward, Special Events Committee Chair; Jeanne Maloy of presenting sponsor Marshall & Sterling; and Dr. William Meckley, Dean of the School of Music.



Culinary Arts students prepare delicious gourmet food stations.



Chef Tom Alicandro, Assistant Professor, and Dr. William Meckley, both of whom have contributed their talents to *Food For Thought & All That Jazz* for many years, and are retiring this spring.



The SCCC Jazz Ensemble entertains the crowd.



Josh Kilmer-Purcell and Dr. Brent Ridge of Beekman 1802.



Dr. William Meckley.



Jeanne Maloy, Vice President and Branch Manager, with Paul Lawry, Business Administration major and recipient of the Genevieve Stellato Memorial Scholarship, during Honors Convocation last spring.



Marshall & Sterling supports Rotary at a Water Walk, bringing awareness to water scarcity worldwide.

## Transformational Generosity

Ben Round, former head of Marshall & Sterling Upstate in Glenville, has always been passionate about SUNY SCCC. As two-time SCCC Foundation Board Chair and active member from 1992-2009, he believes the College plays a crucial role in identifying and meeting needs of the Schenectady community through innovative programs and curriculum.

Marshall & Sterling has generously supported SUNY SCCC with 17 years of event support, two scholarships, and active board participation. We sat down with Jeanne Maloy, immediate past Chair of the SCCC Foundation Board and Vice President and Branch Manager at Marshall & Sterling Upstate, Inc., to learn what motivates Marshall & Sterling to remain such engaged supporters of the College.

### Q: How does giving to SUNY SCCC fit with Marshall & Sterling, Inc.'s mission?

As an employee-owned company, our pride in ownership drives us to remain committed to being a strong community partner and fulfilling corporate social responsibility within the communities we serve. Sponsorship of SUNY SCCC special events is an especially rewarding cause for our staff – the support goes directly toward students and their education. We were proud to be Presenting Sponsor of this year's *Food for Thought & All That Jazz*.

Our teams donate annually to fund a scholarship for a student enrolled in a Business Administration degree, an initiative created and driven by our employees. The Gail Nolan and the Genevieve Stellato Memorial Scholarships were both created in memory of wonderful employees who unfortunately passed away; we appreciate the opportunity to remember them while giving back.

Our employees also feel rewarded knowing that we are supporting the

future of our community. For about six years, we offered internships to students – and still recruit graduates today to join our team. We value our symbiotic relationship with the College.

### Q: Can you describe other partnerships that Marshall & Sterling, Inc. has in the community?

In addition to regularly donating their time, talent, and financial resources to a wide array of civic and not-for-profit charitable organizations, many of our employees also serve on governing Boards of Directors and other volunteer committees.

We support national organizations including the American Red Cross and American Cancer Society, but also prioritize local organizations such as the Salvation Army and the City Mission of Schenectady. We have been a part of the Chamber of Commerce for decades.

### Q: What does it mean to you to be involved with the SCCC Foundation?

To a student paying for tuition, books,

and "life," \$500 or \$1,000 can make an enormous difference. I have had the pleasure of presenting our scholarship at Honors Convocation, which emphasizes how we provide more than just financial assistance. Earning a scholarship gives students a sense of pride, accomplishment, and motivation to achieve academic excellence. We regularly receive notes of appreciation from the student, which we share at meetings and around the office. It is a powerful feeling to know that you have played a role in making a student successful.

My time on the Foundation Board has been rewarding. I have strengthened professional and personal relationships with community leaders and business owners, while working together to grow an incredible institution of higher education. It is an honor to be able to continue Marshall & Sterling's partnership with SUNY SCCC, which we will be proud to carry on for years to come.



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