

## Important reminders for graduates



SUNY SCCC's 47th Commencement will be held on Thursday, May 18, at 2 p.m. at Proctors.

Grads should:

**Attend one of the Information Sessions** held in the Activity Forum on:

- Wednesday, May 3 from 12 - 12:50 p.m.
- Friday, May 5, from 12 - 12:50 p.m.
- Monday May 8, from 12 - 12:50 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 9, from 5 - 6 p.m.
- Monday, May 15 from 5 - 6 p.m.

**Pick up your cap and gown, Commencement invitations and tickets** between Tuesday, May 2, and Tuesday, May 16, 2017, in the College Store. Along with your cap and gown, you will receive four invitations and four tickets. Additional tickets may be available. Check with the College Store on Monday, May 8 (first-come, first-served).

**On Commencement day**, arrive at Proctors by 1 p.m. and line up outside of the back entrance to Proctors (the entrance closest to the Parking Garage, NOT the State Street entrance).

## SGA President to address Class of 2017



Margaret Ketchen, President of the Student Government Association, will deliver the student address during Commencement. She will be graduating with her degree in Paralegal and plans to transfer to the University at Albany to study civil engineering and public policy before going to law school to earn a degree in contract law.

While at SUNY SCCC, Margaret was involved in the SUNY Student Assembly and worked at the Schenectady County Public Library.



## Moving on to practice law and help reform the system

Richard Ham intends on letting people know that it all started in Schenectady, with all the warmth and quiet confidence that is his nature.

"I want to be able to say that everything I learned came from Schenectady," the Criminal Justice major said. "From elementary school to college here at SCCC, then coming back for law school at Albany Law, keeping it all in New York would be great."

His one detour out of state might be for his bachelor's degree as he just earned an impressive academic scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga. But he's still weighing his options. He'll either attend Morehouse, New York University or Union College. Then, it's off to law school and a career in criminal law to examine and help reform government policy focusing on the way that offenders are treated in the system. "We learned in our criminal justice classes here that the brain is not fully developed until age 25, but yet we send 16-year-olds to prison for life," he explained. "A lot of things need to be changed because it's not beneficial to our entire society."

A member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Richard is active in the community by facilitating domestic violence accountability and prevention classes for parolees through Community Fathers and serving as a youth worker at Safe Inc., in Schenectady.

After he passes the bar and is practicing law, pro bono work is at the top of his list. "It bothers me a lot that underprivileged people in the system have no representation. I'll work so that people are treated fairly even if they don't have money."

## Living a childhood dream

While other kids were checking out the trendiest additions at the toy store, Jennifer Van Strander was asking her parents to take her to the Parent Teacher Store.

“I got one of those pens that had red on one side and blue on the other side,” the Teacher Education Transfer major said. “The teachers always had them. I also got a grade book and big white board that I had at my house with dry erase markers in different colors.”

She was in second grade as Pashley Elementary School in Glenville and from that point on teaching was all she ever envisioned as a career. It helped that she had a teacher who she admired. “My teacher was Marcy Raeder and I always thought she was so fun, energetic and positive and I strived to be like her.”

Now Jennifer sits in that same second grade classroom, but this time it’s for her Educational Psychology course, as she observes Ms. Raeder and helps grade spelling tests and look after the children.

While at SUNY SCCC, Jennifer has maintained a 3.94 GPA and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and secretary of the Student Volunteer Organization. She’ll head to SUNY Oneonta this fall for her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education 1-6 and then wants to return to the area to pursue her master’s degree.

She looks forward to having her own second grade classroom one day. “I love little kids and how curious they are about everything. I want to make a difference in their lives and be there for them and set a positive example.



Graduate  
Spotlight

## Building a strong network



Graduate  
Spotlight

The first thing that Andrena Nichols tells someone she notices struggling in the computer lab is this: “That computer can’t do anything until you tell it to.”

“When someone first comes to the lab and is discouraged and just starting, I never put my hands on the keyboard to show somebody something,” said Andrena, a Computer Networking Systems and Cyber Security major and lab monitor. “I tell them what to do so they’ll know and let them go ahead and do it.” There’s a big difference between when she first talks to a student in the lab and when she sees them later in the semester. “There was one young woman who I saw early in the semester who was a wreck. Now when I see her, she has the brightest smile like ‘I got this.’”

The same might be said for Andrena, who has remained committed to finishing up her degree while dealing with a

lung cancer diagnosis (only taking one semester off for surgery). She started at the College in Fall 2012 as a part-time student, having relocated to Schenectady from Virginia after retiring from a career in business administration at Central State Hospital in Petersburg, Va.

She decided to follow a passion she’s had since the early 1990s. “I always had a love for computers,” this mother of two and grandmother of five explained. “I always wanted to know what was behind the networking and to find out how it all works.”

Andrena already earned her certificate in Computer Repair and Networking in 2014. After graduation she plans to work in the field while having her own computer repair business. She extends her gratitude to her professors and staff in the offices in which she has worked at the College – the Computer Lab, Opportunity Zone and TRiO.



## Mixing and mastering the art of recording

Music has always been a trusted friend to Hailey Lozier, especially during life's challenges.

“When I was 8, I wrote a song about my grandmother who passed away,” said Hailey, a Music Audio Technology major. “It’s always been a healthy outlet for me through difficulties in life.”

Hailey has played several instruments since she was a kid, from piano (she taught herself how to play) and saxophone, to guitar, ukulele and flute. She’s also a vocalist and her voice has been her main instrument at the College, as a member of the Chorus and Vocal Chamber Ensemble. But her love for music led her down a new path when she enrolled in the Music Audio Technology degree program.

She had already completed the Music certificate program and was in the degree program when she discovered that there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes and she wanted to mix and master all of it. “I know that I didn’t want to teach or strictly perform,” said Hailey who is interning with the band Flame, a group of musicians with disabilities formed through the Fulton County chapter of NYSARC. “Now I know what happens in order to perform. It’s so much more than just going on stage.”

Hailey just finished as head engineer for Flame’s Christmas CD, recording the band in the Vianna-Brignola studio in the School of Music. She plans to have the CD mastered soon and still work for the band after graduation.



Graduate  
Spotlight

## Taking a risk that has paid off

Graduate  
Spotlight



By Atul Rai’s calculation, coming to the United States was “a 110 percent risk.”

“I’m from a very small place (Kolkata, India), but every time I used to be on the roads, I would see Mercedes drive by and tall buildings and I always had a passion that one day I really want to achieve something,” the Hospitality and Tourism major said.

So, he took the risk and left his parents and siblings, first traveling to England, where in 2015 he earned his bachelor’s degree in Hospitality Management from the University of West London. As part of his studies, he came to the U.S. in 2012 for a seven-month internship at a hotel on Martha’s Vineyard. “It was like living a dream,” he said. “When I got here and was living on Martha’s Vineyard, one of the finest islands within the U.S., I thought ‘I love this place.’”

The time was right to return to the states in February 2016 and live with his aunt and uncle in Clifton Park. His parents, living in Varanasi, India, supported his decision to move here. “At a very young age, I’ve always wanted to be in a place where I could be myself and make an impact. I want to make them proud and say, ‘even if I’m not under your umbrella anymore, you have given me enough to be by myself.’”

While at the College, Atul has made quite an impact through the Office of Career and Transfer Services, leading presentations on social media and “building your self-confidence.” His work earned him the Student Employee of the Year Award given to a student employee who “demonstrates exceptional leadership skills, consistently exceeds expectations and has made a positive impact through work contributions.”

Now Atul is fielding three job offers and intends to pursue his master’s degree after he has chalked up some more career experience. His mantra? “Simple living but high thinking – this is what has always been my motivation.”



## A job well done

A heartfelt “thank you” to this year’s BINNEKILL writers and photographers who contributed their time and talents, making the issues this year extra special.

Front row left is Gianluca Russo, who will graduate with his degree in Paralegal. He plans to transfer on for his bachelor’s degree in journalism while writing for various theater publications including *Playbill* and *Broadway World*.

Ian Farrington, Liberal Arts: History concentration major, will be back at SUNY SCCC next semester, cross-registering with Union College to take classes in history. He’ll go on for his pre-law work and then it’s on to law school.

Back row, left is Noah Smith, graduating with his degree in Paralegal. He’ll be heading to the University at Albany in the fall and majoring in English.

Jessie Coello will be graduating with her degree in Liberal Arts: History concentration. This fall, she’ll be calling New Paltz home as she transfers to SUNY New Paltz to pursue her bachelor’s degree in history.



Photographer Jonathan Colón, a Human Services major, will be returning to the College in the fall. He plans to again contribute his artistic vision and photos to the BINNEKILL.

## Baseball Weekend

Men’s Baseball Team  
Home Games

Saturday, May 6,  
vs. Columbia Greene  
CC, 1 p.m., Home  
(Central Park)

Sunday, May 7 vs.  
SUNY Adirondack,  
1 p.m., Home



## On exhibit: Student artists explore the theme of soul

What is soul? Josiah Hughes (left) and Aaryn Moore-King (right), students in Stephen Tyson’s (center) Introduction to Drawing course, answered that question through their artwork on exhibit in the Hamilton Hill Arts Center’s Jerry Burrell Gallery through June.

The exhibition examines the theme of soul. Aaryn’s “Tools of the Trade” is a copic markers piece. He describes the piece this way: “The various objects and utensils you see depict the character and culture of my family. This is not a staged still life but rather the aftermath of an average family dinner.”

The inspiration for Josiah’s “Marvin’s Soul” in marker/ink was listening to one of the greatest voices in music. “I was laying on my bed listening to Marvin Gaye’s music while drawing. I looked over and saw a picture of his face and immediately knew I wanted to draw him. I could really feel his soul through the music.”



Tayron Lopez, who graduated from SUNY SCCC last year, has three works on exhibit: “Mr. Clark-El,” “Mr. Henry” and “Mr. Bell,” all pieces on canvas portraying good friends. Tayron is now pursuing his bachelor’s degree at Sage College of Albany.



## Campus Resources

### Academic Advisement

#### Elston 222/381-1277

Monday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Thursday	8:30 am-6:30 pm
Friday	8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Academic Computing Lab

#### Elston 529, 530/381-1213

Mon.-Thurs.	8:30 am-10 pm
Friday	8:30 am-4 pm
Saturday	9 am-3 pm

### Accounting/CIS Tutor Lab

#### Elston 330/381-1041

Monday	9:30 am-5 pm
Tues.-Thurs.	9:30 am-3:30 pm

### ADA Transition Services

#### Elston 222/381-1345

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Admissions

#### Stockade 120/381-1366

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Albany Site, 2nd Floor, 112 State

St., Albany, 871-9079, Option 1  
Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
Classes, Financial Aid, COMPASS Testing,  
Advisement via Skype, Computer Lab,  
Photo IDs, Lounge/Study Areas

### Athletics

#### Elston 222/381-1356

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Begley Library/381-1235

Mon.-Thurs.	8 am – 9 pm
Friday	8 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday	11 am – 5 pm

### Business Office, Student

#### Elston 219/381-1346, 1347

Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am-4:15 pm

### Cafeteria

#### Elston/381-1330

Mon.-Thurs.	7:30 am-8 pm
Friday	7:30 am-2 pm

### Canal Side Cafe/Convenience

#### Elston Ground Floor/381-1073

Monday-Thursday	7:30 am-7:30 pm
Friday	7:30 am-1:30 pm

### Career and Transfer Services

#### Elston 221-I/836-2807

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### The College Store

#### Elston 109/381-1332

Monday-Wednesday	8 am-6 pm
Thursday	8 am-4 pm
Friday	8 am-2 pm

### College Central Network

SCCC's career management system  
[www.sunysccc.edu/ces](http://www.sunysccc.edu/ces)

### Educational Opportunity

#### Programs/Access

#### Elston 222/381-1279

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Financial Aid

#### Elston 221/381-1352

Monday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Thursday	8:30 am-6:30 pm
Friday	8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Gateway Montessori

#### Gateway 124/381-1455, 381-1295

Monday-Friday 9 am-11:30 am  
(Call for program information.)

### Language Lab

#### Elston 520/381-1373

See lab for hours.

### Learning Center/Writing Lab

Elston 523/381-1246

Monday-Thursday	8:30 am-7 pm
Friday	8:30 am-4 pm
Saturday	10 am-3 pm

### Math Lab Elston 518/381-1435

Monday-Thursday	8:30 am-7 pm
Friday	8:30 am-4 pm
Saturday	10 am-3 pm

### Registrar's Office Elston 212/215

381-1348, 381-1349/ext. 1148

Monday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Thursday	8:30 am-6:30 pm
Friday	8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Student Affairs,

#### Vice President

#### Elston 222/381-1344

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Student Government

#### Elston 220H/381-1338

By appointment or walk-in

### Testing Center

#### Elston 427/381-1293

TestingCenter@sunysccc.edu  
Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-7 pm  
Friday 8:30 am-3 pm  
Saturday 10 am-2 pm

### TRIO Student Support

#### Services Elston 328/381-1465

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Tutor Services

#### Begley Library 210/381-1461

Mon.-Fri. 8 am-4 pm (Coordinator)  
Tutoring available Mon.-Sat. (some  
evenings) based upon scheduling.

### Veterans Affairs

#### Elston 223/381-1284

Open daily. See office for hours.

### Wellness and Support

#### Services

Elston 222/381-1365  
Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### Workforce Development

#### Kindl Bldg., 201 State St.

595-1101, ext. 3  
Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### YWCA Children's Center

#### Gateway Bldg./381-1375/1389

Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5:30 pm