



BINNEKILL

Vol. XXXII No. 3

a monthly publication for students, faculty, staff and friends

April 13, 2016

“M” is for the motivation you gave them

When asked to reflect on who has inspired them most to keep their noses to the grindstone and keep striving to succeed, both of this year’s Chancellor’s Awards recipients without hesitation mentioned the same person in their lives: their mothers.

Christa Agans, Computer Information Systems major, and **Tristian Banchs-Ponce**, Criminal Justice major, were both recognized last week, along with 246 other SUNY students, with the 2016 Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence.

“Watching the strength of my mom, it’s an unsaid thing that she was so strong to raise four kids and go through the things she has gone through,” Christa said. “My father died when she was 20 years old and she had two kids to raise. If she can do that, I got this.”

For Tristian, graduating from SCCC will mark the first time that anyone in his family has earned a degree. “I’m the first generation to go to college, so that’s a big deal,” he said. “My mother has always been there pushing me and teaching me the importance of school.”

The Chancellor’s Awards recognize students who have best demonstrated academic excellence with accomplishments in leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts and campus involvement.



More on our recipients

Christa Agans - 3.8 GPA, wife and mother of two children, started an Adopt-A-Grandparent program, by posting an idea on Facebook in December. She soon had a room full of parents and kids playing Bingo with residents of The Glendale Home. After graduating next month, Christa plans to enroll in the Computer Networking Systems and Cyber Security program.



Tristian Banchs-Ponce - 3.84 GPA, President of Educational Opportunity Program Club, works full-time and wants to give back to the communities he grew up in by working in criminal justice. “I want

to put the bad guys away, to make sure that the communities I live in are safe...I can’t do everything, but I can be a part of it.” After graduation, he plans to transfer for his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice.

Tameeka Shirer and Jenn Dugan are two of the latest students to learn the ropes of business through the Capital Region Chamber’s Entrepreneur Boot Camp. SCCC partners with the Chamber so that students can take the 10-week course as an elective.



Students learn the ropes of business during “Boot Camp”

Two determined women, one with a love of transportation, the other with an eye for transformation, plan to share their business ideas with Capital Region experts this week.

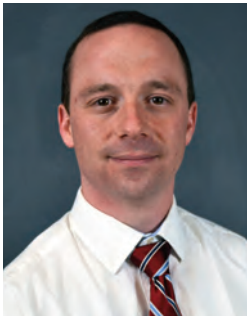
Tameeka Shirer is up every day at 5 a.m. not only to get things ready for her two kids, ages 6 and 1, but to make sure that youngsters from throughout the city of Schenectady make it to school on time. As a bus driver for the city school district for the past two years, Tameeka has grown to love not only “getting kids from point A to point B” but also “building relationships with the children and asking them how their day was.” Driving started out as a way to earn money and soon sparked Tameeka’s idea for a business: owning a fleet of buses for charter trips, from day-trips around the Capital Region to weekend trips for local non-profits.

Like Tameeka, Jenn Dugan’s passion has grown into an impressive business idea and it’s one that melds her background in theater with her ability to transform anyone with the stroke of a brush. She started out in costume design and earned a bachelor’s degree in fashion design from Marist College. But three years ago, she transitioned to makeup and now plans to build on her skills with the Makeup Curio, her idea for a retail and service business that blends beauty and special effects makeup. She summed it up this way, “Basically, I sell fun.”

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New staff for technology, financial aid areas

Mark Bessette joined SCCC last week as the Director of Financial Aid. Most recently Mark served as the Director of Financial Aid at ITT Technical Institute in Wilmington, Mass. Mark earned a B.S. degree in Mathematics from the University at Albany and is currently pursuing his Master of Education degree in Higher Education Student Affairs at Salem State College.



Christopher Myers is an Educational Aide in Instructional Technology at SCCC@Center City. Chris first joined the College community as a student in 2005 and was voted President of the Technology Club for three consecutive semesters. He graduated with an A.A.S. in Computer Networking and Systems in 2008. He has worked as an Information Specialist with the New York State Office for Technology and the New York State Thruway Authority. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in Information Technology through Empire State College.



Blue lights like the one pictured at left in the cafeteria are working every day to help keep those on campus healthy.

Lights on campus another way to stay healthy

Ever wonder what those blue lights around campus are? Like the one pictured above in the cafeteria? They're ultraviolet C (UVC) lights used to keep our campus healthy by killing microorganisms and controlling infection. You'll notice them around Elston Hall near the security desk, in the cafeteria, Activity Forum and Student Lounge, as well as in the Gateway Building.

Alan Yauney, Director of Facilities, was responsible for having the lights installed on campus and his fight against infection was featured in the April issue of HPAC Engineering Magazine, which has a circulation of about 35,000 readers.

"My primary charge is to provide a clean, safe, and comfortable environment for students to learn," Yauney said. "Controlling bacteria, microorganisms and the spread of disease is one of my goals."

He also reminds the campus community that the UVC lights can be harmful to skin and eyes if faced directly so they're angled upward and installed at least 7 feet from the floor.



Top photo: The unveiling of the sign for the "Anthony J. 'Toby' Strianese Wing of Culinary Arts and Hospitality"

Bottom photo: Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the SCCC Board of Trustees; Toby's wife Pam Strianese with son Larry and his wife Alicia, and Dr. David Brough '81 Dean of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism.

Culinary wing named for Toby Strianese

Members of the Strianese family, friends, alumni, students, colleagues, and College officials gathered last week at the entrance of the Culinary Wing for a special ceremony. A dignified sign was unveiled.

The sign honors Anthony "Toby" Strianese, an expert in the pairing of wine and food, longtime professor and chair of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, who passed away on Dec. 26, 2015. Toby influenced thousands of students during his 40 years at SCCC. His legacy will still be known by future students when they pass through the "Anthony J. 'Toby' Strianese Wing of Culinary Arts and Hospitality" in Elston Hall, following an official resolution passed by the College's Board of Trustees in February 2016 to name the wing in his honor.



Margaret Ketchen, Paralegal major and clothing designer, offers some fashion tips below.



Peter Fitzgerald at the keys in the School of Music

Fashion insight from a designer

Photo and story by Gianluca Russo, Paralegal major

For a typical college student, fashion is not usually a priority when attending school. With all the homework to do and tests to study for, who has time to make sure they look fashionable every day, especially when they are only attending class? But what about when dressing up is required, perhaps for a formal dinner or party? As much as you may wish sweatpants could be worn, they simply will not be acceptable for this occasion.

To help those of us who are not used to dressing up on a daily basis, we spoke to Margaret Ketchen, a Paralegal student who has been designing clothes and working in retail, spending much time to plan out her outfits and taking pride in each garment she wears. Ketchen loves helping others discover their own fashion sense and shares with us her top five rules for fashion success.

1. Shape Your Outfits Around Yourself - You may often see a friend or celebrity wearing a certain outfit that you automatically fall in love with. However, when you try it on, it just doesn't look right. This is because each and every person's body and characteristics are different, some looking good in certain outfits while others do not. Spend some time and find outfits that look great on you. Your hair color, complexion, and eye color are all excellent factors that, when considered, benefit you in completing an outfit.

2. Texture is Underrated - The weight, feel, and drape of textiles can all be makers or breakers in making the components of your outfit complement each other. Stop always wearing the same types of clothes and start experimenting with different textiles, adding more flair and personality into each one of your outfits.

3. Fashion is Human - Fashion is all about being unique and expressing yourself. By making everything match and conforming to one concept or ideal, you lose the aspect of fashion that is tied to self-expression. Go outside the box and add your own flair into your wardrobe. Be unique and make your closet reflect who you are! Try matching colors and pieces that you wouldn't typically jump into. You may very well surprise yourself.

4. Use Neutral Colors - Using natural colors provides a great base for any outfit. Some of these may include black, khaki, or navy colored pieces to help anchor and shape your outfit. Try using these neutrals as the centerpiece for the rest of what you are wearing.

5. Everything Looks Better With Confidence - Like in any other aspect of life, confidence is key. Don't be afraid of what people may think of your fashion choices; wear each outfit loud and proud! Some of the biggest trends (and restarted trends) came about from people who took chances and risks in publicizing their style.

A tango in Texas

Peter Fitzgerald took only his second plane ride ever last week. But this time, it was as an award-winning composer heading to San Antonio, Texas, to hear his piece *Irish Tango* brought to life by a group of professional musicians.

What started as a simple chord progression - C, G, Aflat, G - that Peter was "messing around with," became a two-minute piece of music that earned him the 2016 Jack Stone Award for New Music, through the only national competition for composers that is specifically limited to community college students. He earned a cash prize and an all-expense paid trip to Texas.

Peter, a trumpet player since he was a fourth-grader at Howe Magnet School in Schenectady, was chosen as this year's award recipient by members of the Composers Alliance of San Antonio. Two other students from New York and Washington state were chosen as runners-up.

A graduate of Schenectady High School and first-year student in the Performing Arts: Music program, he has about 80 compositions and 47 arrangements to his credit, pretty prolific considering he only started composing and arranging a little more than a year ago.

This year, students from New York, Texas and Washington submitted their compositions for the only national competition, named for the deceased musician and music educator Jack Stone, who was also the husband of the founding president of Northwest Vista College in San Antonio, where the concert takes place annually.

So, what's Peter have in the works now? "Right now I'm questioning beginning something," he said, explaining that he usually starts whistling something and tucks it away in his head until he can sit down at the piano and figure it out. "I have napkins around my room with the musical staff and notes. I'm into load bang right now which is trumpet, trombone, bass clarinet and a male voice."



Members of the Student Theatre Ensemble at a recent rehearsal for *Alienation*. L. to R. are: Joy Roberts, Terrell White, Unique Soule, Steve Buntich and Giulia Pezzulo.

ALIENATION
 Written and directed by Jonathan Beller
 Friday, April 29, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, April 30, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
 Thursday, May 5, 8 p.m.
 Friday, May 6, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m.
 John Sayles School of Fine Arts Black Box Theatre,
 Schenectady High School, The Plaza
 Students - \$5 General Public - \$8

Alienation, an original work, set for performances later this month

by Gianluca Russo, Paralegal major

Attention! Aliens have infiltrated SCCC! Well, sort of. The Theatre concentration, part of the Liberal Arts program, is currently in rehearsals for their spring production, *Alienation*, which will open later this month at the John Sayles School of Fine Arts Black Box Theatre, located at Schenectady High School.

The play is an original piece created by director Jonathon Beller, Assistant Professor, and some of his theatre students. Beller first came up with the idea late last summer, drawing inspiration from 1950s science fiction films, local stories of UFO sightings, and age-old alien conspiracy theories. He began to compose the show in the fall with his theatre workshop class, creating the play from scratch. After a basic storyline was constructed, auditions were held, both for students of SCCC and community members, and the show was cast.

Alienation is an ensemble-based piece composed of 11 actors

with many of them playing multiple roles. The show follows a group of characters who are caught somewhere between fact and fantasy, desperately looking far outside themselves for proof that intelligent life exists. According to its promotional flyer, it is described as “a funny and moving theatrical ride into one of the most extraordinary and provocative subjects of our time.” The cast began preparing for the production in January, rehearsing Monday through Thursday underground at Proctors. However, many challenges presented themselves as the availability of the actors did not always match up with the rest of the ensemble. Thankfully, Beller and his assistant Emily DiCarlo set up a schedule that allowed for rehearsals to run smoothly and accommodate for each member’s different personal schedules.

After months of rehearsals, *Alienation* will play the John Sayles School of Fine Arts Black Box Theatre on April 29, April 30, and May 5 -7 at 8 p.m. There is also a 2 p.m. matinee on April 30. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for the public.



A capella style - Totally Pitchin’ is SCCC’s new a capella club. They sound great! You can catch them on Monday, April 18, performing from 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. in the Taylor Auditorium and on Sunday, April 24, at 2:30 p.m., performing alongside the School of Music Saxophone Quartet, Brass Ensemble, and Jazz Combo at the Schenectady County Public Library. Left to right are: Tatianna Fallas, Jack Lynch, Megan Combs, Eric Marte, Lauren Chrysler, Will Golden, Lor Pokluda, Andrew Steenburgh, Areli Mendoza-Pannone, Christian Gomez, Taylor Wing and Jacklyn Ennis. Not Pictured: Ashley Rickson, Sophia Bisceglia, Brittany Plano, Alex Phillips, Aeshley Detour and Elisha Thompson

Humans of SCCC



Emily Sarita is a Liberal Arts: Communications concentration major and member of Rhythms Literary Magazine at SCCC.

“If an obstacle came my way and brought me down, I always got back on my feet and kept moving forward. Those words have always been stuck in my mind. I came to SCCC from a four-year private university in hopes of getting my associate’s degree in Liberal Arts. My plan is to complete a bachelor’s degree in Communications and accomplish my dreams of being a screenwriter. Always be resilient. Never give up.”



William Pattee is a Liberal Arts major and the Student Trustee

“As an English student, I aspire to take my studies to law school, and soon after work in criminal law. My goals always start with fighting for the underdog, especially as someone who has always been the underdog. I’m very grateful to be where I am today, and I want to give it back.”



Simon Lange is a Liberal Arts: Drama Concentration major and is part of the upcoming production of *Alienation*.

“I attend SCCC out of pure convenience and affordability. If it wasn’t for these, I’m not sure I would be attending school at all. I’m an entrepreneur, so I have always planned on running my own business. I am currently working on starting my own production company.”



Shakora Domingo is a Liberal Arts major and dancer, who is planning to transfer to the University at Buffalo in the fall.

“For months I kept the secret that I was going to pursue dance. I turned down the five universities I had been accepted to and enrolled in a community college. Growing up, I could feel the artist drive running through my veins long before I even stepped foot on a stage. Deep down I’ve always known what I wanted to do with my life, but if anyone had asked, I’d respond ‘Anesthesiologist, Nurse Anesthetist, Travel Nurse, Doctor, or maybe an Architect.’ But I could never say ‘dancer.’ Society today expects us to graduate from high school and know exactly what we want to do with the rest of our lives. For me, the answer to the question ‘What do you want to be?’ was easy, but unfortunately the answer that I always gave was a lie. The real answer to the question is that I want to be an artist.”

*Photo of Shakora by Valerie Donahue.
All others by Gianluca Russo.*



Rising to the Challenge

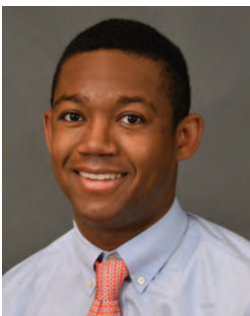
Think you know the answer to this one?

In one state, 52% of the voters are Republicans, and 48% are Democrats. In a second state, 47% of the voters are Republicans, and 53% are Democrats. Suppose a simple random sample of 100 voters are surveyed from each state.

What is the probability that the survey will show a greater percentage of Republican voters in the second state than in the first state?

- (A) 0.04
- (B) 0.05
- (C) 0.24
- (D) 0.71
- (E) 0.76

(answer is below)



Well, the three students on the left knew the answer. 30 students rose to the challenge during the first Challenge Week organized by C-STEP: Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program. They solved problems and answered questions correctly in algebra, biology, calculus, chemistry, computer sciences, math and statistics and the winners were chosen at random from among those students who answered the questions correctly. They received gift cards and award certificates

from the College Store.

Congratulations to [Rebekah Hentnik](#), Air Traffic Control major; [Isaiah Buchanan](#), Liberal Arts major; and [Surita Ramsarat](#), Math and Science major, pictured in order above.

According to Dr. Lorena Harris, C-STEP Director, Challenge Week was created “in an effort to motivate students to think differently, study with peers and work together around campus finding tutors or simply cementing their knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) to be better prepared for midterms earlier this semester.”

Answer: The correct answer is C.

Questions about transfer?

Do you want to transfer on for a bachelor’s degree after SCCC? Students who have questions about transferring to another college or university can visit Bernie Dunn, Assistant Director of the Career and Transfer Services Office, Student Affairs, Elston Hall, Room 221-I.

**The last issue of the Binnekill for Spring 2016
will be published on May 4.**

Look for stories about members of the Class of 2016!

We’ll provide the supplies, you create the bling

During the weeks leading up to Commencement, relax and decorate your Commencement cap at the same time, in the Activity Forum in Elston Hall on the following dates. We’ll have all of the supplies there for you from scrapbooking paper and alphabet/number stickers to glitter and sequins.

- Monday, May 2, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Thursday, May 5, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 11, 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Thursday, May 12, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Friday, May 13, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Monday, May 16, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 17, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Boot Camp (continued from front page)

Tameeka, who is in the Entrepreneurship Certificate program, and Jenn, a Business Administration major, will present their business plans during the final stage of the Capital Region Chamber’s Entrepreneur Boot Camp program. Through a partnership between the College and the Chamber, now in its second year, they’ve been attending the Boot Camp for 10 weeks and earning college credit for BUS 252, the Business Plan Development course.

Their presentations this week are a little bit “Shark Tank,” but instead of gaining investors, the recipient of the top prize earns a \$1,500 cash grant from Sunmark Federal Credit Union, a one-year Chamber membership, office equipment from Repeat Business Systems, a media package from R&D Media, an education package from Excelsior College and two computer courses from MicroKnowledge.

They’ve attended the Boot Camp in Albany two nights a week with instructors and guest speakers covering everything from business elements and branding to human resources and accounting. The insight and tips have been invaluable, Jenn said. “It was so helpful because I knew that I was going to transition to an LLC eventually and I learned about incorporation and getting to know the other people in the class too has been useful, helpful and interesting.” The course allowed Tameeka time to focus and zero in on how to achieve her goal of owning a business. “You have a billion things in your mind and this helps narrow it down to a specific idea,” she said. “You really get a visual with instructions on how to help you succeed in the small business world.”

Professor Matt Farron of the Business, Criminal Justice and Law Division, arranged for the Boot Camp to be taken as an elective when he was designing the Entrepreneurship Certificate program that started in Fall 2014. “It’s valuable from a couple of standpoints,” he said. “Not only from a networking perspective where you’re going to class with other entrepreneurs, but it’s finding the reality of what it takes to start a business. It’s not something that will happen overnight.”

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

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Monday-Thursday | 8:30 am-10 pm |
| Friday | 8:30 am-4 pm |
| Saturday | 9 am-3:30 pm |

Accounting/CIS Tutor Lab
Elston 330/381041

Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 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**Second Floor, 112 State St., Albany**
871-9079, Option 1Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Services: Classes, Financial Aid,
COMPASS Testing, Advisement via
Skype, Computer Lab, Photo IDs,
Student Lounge and Study Areas**Athletics****Elston 222/381-1356**

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

Begley Library/381-1235Monday-Thursday 8 am – 9: pm
Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday 11 am – 5 pm
Closed Sundays**Business Office, Student****Elston 219/381-1346, 1347**

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Monday | 8:30 am-4:15 pm |
| Tuesday | 8:30 am-4:15 pm |
| Wednesday | 8:30 am-4:15 pm |
| Thursday | 8:30 am-4:15 pm |
| Friday | 8:30 am-4:15 pm |

Canal Side Cafe/Convenience**Elston Ground Floor/381-1073**

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Monday-Thursday | 10 am-6 pm |
| Friday | 8 am-2 pm |

Career and Transfer Services**Elston 221-1/836-2807**

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 |

The Commons Elston/381-1330

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Monday-Thursday | 7:30 am-8 pm |
| Friday | 7:30 am-2 pm |

College Central NetworkSCCC's career management system
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 to 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**

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

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./381-1375/381-1389**

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