



# BINNEKILL

Vol. XXXII No. 4

a monthly publication for students, faculty, staff and friends

May 3, 2016

## Commencement 2016

SCCC's 46th Commencement Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2016, at 2 p.m. at Proctors, located at 432 State St. in downtown Schenectady.

Graduates should arrive at Proctors at 1 p.m. and will line up outside of the back entrance to Proctors (the entrance closest to the Parking Garage, NOT the State Street entrance). Guests should go directly to the theater to be seated. Grads, remember to BRING WITH YOU: your cap, gown and name card.

Immediately following the ceremony, graduates and their families are invited to a reception in the Student Commons in Elston Hall on the SCCC campus.

### Commencement Information Sessions

- Monday, May 9, Tuesday, May 10, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Activity Forum, Elston Hall, and then on Thursday, May 12 and Monday, May 16, 5 - 6 p.m., Activity Forum, Elston Hall

*Necessary name cards will be distributed at these sessions.*

### Cap decorating sessions

- 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.

All will take place in the Activity Forum.

Visit [www.sunysccc.edu/student/commencement.html](http://www.sunysccc.edu/student/commencement.html) for more information.



Can you guess which SCCC professor this is?

Find out on page 5.

**Continuing Students:** Don't make him angry! Register now for Fall 2016. See your advisor and register today: [www.sunysccc.edu/register.htm](http://www.sunysccc.edu/register.htm).

## Congratulations Class of 2016!



**Shantal Plass's** family in Guyana always knew that it was her dream to study in the United States, so her older sister Nathaalie Carey, who emigrated from Guyana to the U.S. as a child, sponsored Shantal, giving her the opportunity to live with her and her family in Niskayuna and to attend college. She is an international student who came to the U.S. in January 2014, the same time she started attending SCCC.

Shantal seems to have been involved in everything while at SCCC as Vice President of the Student Government Association, President of the Student Activities Board and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and a variety of campus committees. She said that her family here and in Guyana (mother, sister, brother and foster sister) continue to motivate her. "I want to be able to have my family comfortable both present and future, so that I can be someone they can turn to in times of need." She's graduating with her A.A.S. in Business Administration and then plans to transfer on for her bachelor's degree in Accounting. "I will then get my MBA and become a CFO of one of the Fortune 500 companies," she said.



This fall, **Sebastian Marro** will pack up his belongings to start a new adventure in a familiar place. He's moving to Orlando, Fla., where he will be working alongside chefs from all over the world at Victoria and Albert's fine dining restaurant at Walt Disney World® Resort.

The restaurant was ranked in the top five for fine dining in the United States by Trip Advisor and Sebastian already has experience in their kitchen. He interned there from August 2015 to January 2016 through SCCC's participation in the Walt Disney World College Program and helped prepare dishes with ingredients that were just as impressive as the chefs' credentials. "We made smoked salmon with Alaskan king crab with caviar on top," he said. "I learned a lot of techniques and the quality of the produce also that I got to work with was better than phenomenal." Sebastian has already impressed not only the chefs at Victoria and Albert's, but judges at the recent Chaine des Rotisseurs competition where he came in second, among seasoned chefs from local restaurants, and at the American Culinary Federation's Spring Classic, where he earned the highest score in the hot food competition.

**Grads: Share YOUR story and pics with us!**  
**#SUNYSchenectadyCCC2016**

**Meet more members of the Class of 2016 on page 3.**

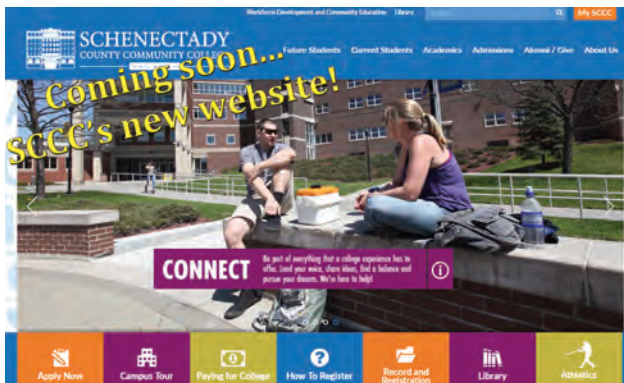
## College welcomes new director

Stephen Quick joined SCCC last month as the Director of Academic Computing Services. Prior to SCCC, Stephen was the Executive Director of Information Technology Services at Mildred Elley in Albany.

He holds an MSIS in Information Management and Policy from the University at Albany and a B.A. in Mathematics from the College of Saint Rose.



**Computing conference** - Dr. Syeda Munaim, Professor; Christa Agans, Computer Information Systems major; and Don Riggs, Assistant Professor, attended the New York Celebration of Women in Computing Conference held April 8 and April 9 in Lake George. Each year the conference seeks to promote the “academic, social and professional growth of technical women in New York.”



### This summer brings new website

We know finals are on your minds right now, but summer is just around the corner! This summer, the College will be launching a

FRESH, NEW website. We listened to your input and created a new site that is modern, bold and dynamic with navigation, features and options that all make it easier for you to find what YOU need.

### Celebrate our students during Honors Convocation



Thursday, May 19, 9:30 a.m., Taylor Auditorium

More than 90 students will be receiving scholarships and awards. Congratulate them and enjoy a reception

afterward in the Van Curler Room, Elston Hall.

Above: Tao Sun, Culinary Arts major, with Chef Yono Purnomo, Co-Owner of Yono's in Albany and scholarship donor, at last year's Honors Convocation.

## Inauguration next weekend



The SCCC Board of Trustees invites the College community to the Inauguration of Dr. Steady H. Moono as the College's seventh President. The ceremony will take place at Proctors on Friday,

May 13, at 3 p.m. The celebration will culminate with a dazzling Inaugural Ball, a garden party black tie event catered by Mazzone Hospitality, at the Schenectady Armory on Saturday, May 14, at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the Ball will benefit the new Minority Student Mentoring Initiative.

The Inauguration ceremony on Friday, May 13, will be marked by the investiture and presentation of the insignia of office to Dr. Moono by Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline for the State University of New York; Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the SCCC Board of Trustees; Paula Ohlhaus, SCCC Chief of Staff; and Kelly Moono, CPA, Dr. Moono's spouse.

The new Minority Student Mentoring Initiative offers students the opportunity to be paired with a mentor while at SCCC to help students stay in college and graduate. Dr. Moono worked tirelessly to develop a similar, successful program at Montgomery County Community College (MCCC), in Pottstown, Penn., where he served for 10 years, most recently as Vice President of the West Campus before coming to SCCC. The newly launched Minority Student Mentoring Initiative at SCCC will connect participating students with caring mentors for guidance and support while providing opportunities for civic engagement, academic advisement, personal development and leadership development.

Tickets for the Inaugural Ball are \$125 per individual for current or retired SCCC faculty, staff, students and alumni and \$200 per individual. To RSVP for either the Inauguration or the Inaugural Ball, please visit [sunysccc.edu/Inauguration](http://sunysccc.edu/Inauguration). For more information, please call 381-1324 or e-mail Marcy Steiner, Vice President of Development and External Affairs, at [steinemm@sunysccc.edu](mailto:steinemm@sunysccc.edu).

The College thanks the following sponsors:

*Underwriters:* Rivers Casino/Mohawk Harbor, KeyBank, Marshall & Sterling Insurance, MVP Health Care and The Schenectady Foundation.

*With Additional Support From:* Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP

*Media Sponsor:* The Daily Gazette

## A love for the language



Almost as an aside, Chik Wai (James) Ng described modestly that he speaks three languages – Cantonese, Mandarin and English. But as the conversation continued, it was discovered that the number actually is four.

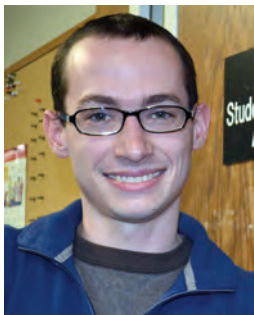
“I want people to hear how I want to speak the language of music,” James explained. It’s a language that he didn’t start speaking until he was 18 years old,

a short time before he was a student at a college in Massachusetts. He had traveled to the U.S. from Hong Kong to study drama and discovered that music was becoming more important to him. He took lessons from a music professor there, Kevin Grudecki, who is also a member of the adjunct faculty in SCCC’s School of Music. James decided to change his major to music, move to Schenectady and study at SCCC.

In the three years since, he’s flourished as a guitarist and after auditioning with an arrangement of *Someday My Prince Will Come*, he was accepted into the Berklee College of Music for the fall. He’ll travel back to Hong Kong for the summer.

His Chinese reading and speaking skills have admittedly dipped a bit since he’s been in the U.S., but he said he’s grateful for the faculty and his friends in the School of Music. “I learned a lot here, but it’s only the tip of the iceberg.”

## Helping others is career pursuit



Daniel Pierce has a drive to help people when they need it the most and satisfy his need for being in the midst of the action at the same time.

“I want to have the ability to help people in dire circumstances when they desperately need the help and can’t provide for themselves,” he said. “And I’m a bit of an adrenaline junkie too.”

The Emergency Management major has already been involved in circumstances that required a cool head and quick decisions: from calming down his sister when the car she was driving, with him as her passenger, spun a complete 360 degrees after hitting some ice, to when as a camp counselor he assisted an injured camper, who had fallen out of a tree, to an ambulance.

After he graduates from SCCC this month, he will transfer to Russell Sage College to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Nursing. His plan is to enter the field of emergency or trauma nursing. “There are a million different options with emergency nursing and you don’t know what’s going to be happening from day to day,” Daniel said.

As President of the Student Government Association, Daniel will be the featured student speaker during this year’s Commencement. “I’ll talk about character. That way I can speak from experience,” he said.

## Two words: “Don’t quit”

Sometimes in life, when all seems to be going well, we are thrown a curveball. This is what happened to Tracy Sweet, Chemical Dependency Counseling/ Human Services major.



In 2011, Tracy was working with at-risk youth and loving every minute of her career, but she was diagnosed with Mixed Connective Tissue Disease and Sjogren’s Syndrome, two autoimmune disorders that cause much physical pain and made it hard for her to work. She was determined to get her life back on track and to not let her illnesses bring her down.

She decided to enroll at SCCC to get a degree in a field where she could do what she loves while being able to compensate for her illnesses. Many challenges were presented, however, causing her to switch from full time to part time, drop classes and adjust her schedule to deal with the challenges life threw at her.

But, after four years of hard work, Tracy is graduating this month. She hopes to transfer to SUNY Empire State College to pursue her bachelor’s degree in Human Services and then earn her MSW at the University at Albany. She had advice for anyone who may be enduring similar challenges. “Don’t quit,” she said. “There were so many times that I wanted to quit and give up, but I pulled through and couldn’t be more excited to walk across that stage and get my degree.” *Story by Gianluca Russo*

## A lifelong love of flying



When Javor Brown was 10 years old, he looked out the window of the United Airlines plane he was on and his future path was sealed.

The flight was bound from his native Jamaica to New York City. It was his first time flying, but he had watched planes overhead daily from the airport near his home in Montego Bay. “My family all knew I was going to be a pilot,” he said.

When he moved to Hudson in fourth grade, he carried his love for flight with him and when he was in eleventh grade, he entered a BOCES aviation program. He graduated from Hudson High School in 2013 and already had his private pilot’s license.

This month, he’ll graduate with his A.S. in Aviation Science, non-pilot option. He decided to get his pre-requisite classes done and then return this fall to complete all of his flight hours for the pilot option of the program. He explained his love for flying this way, “It excites me being able to see everything from up above. It’s like you’re in a different world up there.”

His graduation in a few weeks will be a family milestone. “I’m the first person in my family to go to college, so I’m a big role model to my younger brothers, so they expect a lot of me,” he said. “But they love the idea that I’m chasing my dream and keeping with something that I’ve been in love with since I was a little kid.”

NOW PLAYING

## ALIENATION

SCCC Student Theatre Ensemble  
production

Written and directed by  
Jonathan Beller,  
Assistant Professor

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



**Hazmat demo** – Students in the Hazardous Materials II class had a hands-on drill for a HAZMAT simulated incident last month. Twenty-four students participated, many wearing Hazmat suits. The class is taught by Adjunct Faculty Member Pete Latazzio.

*Pictured are: Jake Champain (Incident Commander), Kayleigh Miles and Kevin Schultz.*



**DownBeat Award** – The SCCC Jazz Ensemble, under the leadership of Dr. William Meckley, has been honored with *DownBeat* magazine's 2016 Student Award for Outstanding Performance by a Large Jazz Ensemble, marking the second consecutive year that SCCC has been recognized by *DownBeat*.

The Jazz Ensemble's performances of "Afro Blue," by Mongo Santamaria, and "Footprints," by Wayne Shorter, separated them from the competition and earned the group this prestigious award. *DownBeat* is widely regarded as one of the nation's premier music publications.

*Pictured above are: (Front row) Mike Hugo, Marty Stone, Ryan Perrote, Joshua Nelson and Sophia Bescaglia. (Second row) Ben Martin and Cole Mead. (Third row) Dr. Bill Meckley (director), Madeline Civill, Chik Wai (James) Ng and Ron Gardner. (Fourth row) Elias Assimakopolous, Justin Taylor, Graham Wolfe and Jason Darnell. (Fifth row) Alex Marro, Alex Kovarovic and Peter Fitzgerald. (Sixth row) Zachary Frenger, Olivia Canavan and Jake DiMirra.*



**Science Competition Winner** – Congratulations to James Mariani (above, left), Math and Science major with a Nanoscale Science concentration, and the winner of the 2016 Grattidge-Ohnstad Science Competition held in the Center for Science and Technology last month. He earned a \$500 prize.

The goal of the competition was to determine the best value for the number of particles in a mole of material (Avogadro’s number) using the Electrochemical Method. James’s measurement was closest to the accepted value for the Avogadro’s number.

The annual science competition was established by Dr. Walter Grattidge, a longtime friend of the College and SCCC Foundation. Dr. Grattidge is shown above, second from left, with Richard Simons, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Ben Placek, Instructor, both from the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health; and Marcy Steiner, Vice President of Development and External Affairs.

## Student has sights set on Olympics



While others might be thinking about plans for the rest of the semester or even through the summer, Eric Skylar is gearing up for either 2024 or 2028.

A competitive judo athlete, Eric is already training for either the 2024 or 2028 Olympics. He’s been competing nationally to earn points and be ranked in the top 22 in the world (the qualifier to compete in the Olympics). He’s on his way.

Last month, he earned a silver medal in the 90 kg division of the 2016 Collegiate Nationals in San Jose, Calif., battling it out against athletes from West Point, San Jose State University, Texas A & M University and Ball State University. His coach Jason Morris, a four-time Olympian and 1992 Olympic Silver Medalist, said that Eric, a 2012 graduate of Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Senior High School, continues to work hard and impress him.

“Eric has come such a long way since he arrived in Glenville three years ago,” Morris said. “His work ethic has been on a steady incline the entire time. He has developed excellent technique and has the foundation to be special.”

In addition to carrying a full class load as a Math and Science major, Eric trains for judo two hours every day, in addition to either running or lifting weights. His training regimen and knowledge of the sport has steadily increased since he got hooked on the modern martial art at age 8 in a small studio in his hometown of Feasterville, Penn. “It’s a good feeling knowing that I know the game and I know how to do most of the things that some others don’t,” he explained. “It’s in the little details. Judo is about specific details like our gripping style - there are certain ways to go in for grips.”

Eric is now in the midst of training for the Junior Pam Am Championship in Buenos Aires, Argentina, taking place in July.



*It took about an hour for Jenn Dugan, Business Administration major, to transform Professor Matt Farron into a zombie as part of her presentation for the Capital Region Chamber’s Entrepreneur Boot Camp competition.*

## Student impresses judges during competition

In the April issue of the BINNEKILL we ran a story about Jenn Dugan and Tameeka Shirer who were both taking the Capital Region Chamber’s Entrepreneur Boot Camp, a 10-week program, and earning credit for the Business Plan Development class at the same time. The program culminated in a competition.

The BINNEKILL is pleased to report that Jenn (pictured below), a Business Administration major, earned second place in the competition, from among 18 aspiring entrepreneurs from throughout the Capital Region. She won marketing services from R&D Media in Albany, worth \$500, and a business quality Ricoh 311DNw desktop printer from Repeat Business



Systems. There were four top prizes awarded and this was the second time an SCCC student has placed in the competition.

During the competition, Jenn illustrated her presentation with an SCCC professor as her model. Professor Matt Farron of the Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law, jumped right in to help Jenn present her business plan to a panel of judges. Her business, Makeup Curio, will comprise a retail and service business that blends beauty and special effects makeup.

“Jenn Dugan was one of the hardest working entrepreneurs I’ve ever had in class,” said Janet Tanguay, Entrepreneurship Manager for the Chamber. “Her passion, dedication, motivation, and enthusiasm for her industry were unmatched. She wrote a very strong business plan and presented really well. Plus, she even taught me how to love makeup!”

**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 1**

Monday-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/381-1235**

Monday-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 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 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

**Notes:**

Advisement, Registrar and Financial Aid are open until 6:30 on Thursdays, except for on May 19.

Advisement, Registrar, Financial Aid, and the Student Business Office will also be open until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31.