Hudson County Community College (HCCC) held festivities to mark achieving full campus accreditation for its North Hudson location – 4800 Kennedy Boulevard in Union City – on Wednesday, May 11 at 12 noon. The event also celebrated the graduates of the College’s Class of 2016 with a barbecue lunch.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education had granted the College’s Union City site campus designation earlier this year, said HCCC President Glen Gabert, Ph.D. There are presently four degree programs students may acquire entirely from the HCCC North Hudson Campus – Liberal Arts, Psychology, Elementary Education, and Secondary Education.

The Hudson County Community College North Hudson Campus was officially opened in late September 2011 as the Hudson County Community College North Hudson Higher Education Center. The $28.2 million, 92,350 sq.-ft., seven-story building was designed to serve as a complete campus under one roof.

Dr. Paula Pando, Vice President for the North Hudson Campus and Student Affairs, noted that enrollment at North Hudson has been at capacity (3,000 students) for the past few years, and demand has been growing. As a result, the College has scheduled earlier classes (at 8 a.m.) and repurposed classrooms to accommodate 60 additional classes.

The Hudson County Community College 39th Commencement Ceremonies was held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. At 1,150 strong, the HCCC Class of 2016 is the largest graduating class in the College’s history. The valedictorian was Steven Galarza of Union City.

The keynote speaker for the ceremonies was Dr. Nancy Cantor, the Chancellor of Rutgers University - Newark. The 2016 Hudson County Community College Heritage Award was presented to Dr. Howard Parish, a Hudson County native who taught physics and geology at New Jersey City University for more than 35 years, and who has served on the boards of several Hudson County organizations. Reverend Victor P. Kennedy led the invocation that evening. Fr. Kennedy is the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Secaucus, and has served at several parishes throughout Hudson County.
New Jersey Council of County Colleges Honors the State’s Top Community College Students

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges honored New Jersey’s 37 best and brightest community college students and their families at its 22nd annual Phi Theta Kappa Day celebration on Thursday, May 5, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Trenton.

“Each year, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) honors New Jersey’s top community college students and their families for their outstanding academic achievements and exceptional service to their communities as members of Phi Theta Kappa at their local community colleges,” said NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli. “The event, sponsored byPhi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for community colleges, the Coca-Cola Foundation, and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), offers deserving community college students statewide recognition by policymakers and legislators.”

The 2016 New Jersey All-State Academic Team members include Hudson County Community College students Olga Glavna of Jersey City and Sarah Roberts of Kearny.

In addition, 21 of New Jersey’s four-year colleges and universities have offered over $1 million in scholarships to Phi Theta Kappa students transferring to their institutions.

Phi Theta Kappa has recognized and encouraged scholarship among community college students for 97 years while promoting the academic integrity of the associate degree program. Students with grade point averages of 3.5 or higher are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges is the state association representing New Jersey’s 19 community colleges. As an independent, trustee-headed organization that joins the leadership of trustees and presidents, the Council is the voice of the community college sector before the state legislature and other branches of government.

HCCC Phi Theta Kappa Alumnae

Amaka (Jennifer) Amakwe is now Dr. Amakwe, having graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in May. Safiatou Coulibaly (previously Fridman) earned her M.S.W. from the Columbia University School of Social Work in May 2014 and is a social worker at the Manhattan Criminal Court. Safiatou’s baby, born in 2015, also attended the graduation.

Congratulations to Amayha Jimenez, who earned her bachelor’s degree in biology from Columbia University.

LANGUAGE LITERACY DAY

Students in the Emerging Literacy course at Hudson County Community College’s North Hudson Campus created and organized activities for children, aged two to three at the West New York library on Thursday, April 28, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The developmentally appropriate activities involved the research-based principles and practices the students had learned throughout Spring 2016. Some of the language-based activities included free play with music, Circle Time, singing of songs such as the Name Song, Itsy Bitsy Spider, Five Little Speckled Frogs, and the ABC’s in both English and Spanish. The children also participated in story time with the book, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie as well as an art project of creating a mouse puppet. This special day culminated with music and movement activities during which the children enjoyed Head Shoulder Knees and Toes, If You Are Happy and You Know It, Ring Around the Rosie, as well as free expression time with musical instruments. The Early Childhood majors who took part in this Language Literacy Day had the opportunity to apply the strategies and techniques they had learned in class such as exposing young children to descriptive words and sentences, encouraging children with positive language, demonstrating the fun activities and creating a child-centered, developmentally appropriate environment for the young participants.
JOBS

Applicants are now being sought for the following positions:

Adjunct Jobs
Advisor (Part-Time)
Assistant Vice President for Development
Associate Dean of Enrollment Services
Associate Director of Advisement and Counseling
Chief Information Officer
College Lecturer, Academic Foundations - English
Community Education Customer Service Assistant
PT (multiple positions)
Community Education Instructors PT (multiple positions)
Director of Admissions
Executive Director (Center for Online Learning)
Front Desk Assistant (Part-Time)
Instructor, Cooperating Basic English For Transitional Program (Part-Time)
Instructor, Cooperating Basic Math For Transitional Program (Part-Time)
Instructor of Computer Science
Instructor of Physics and Mathematics
Reader/Notetaker (Part-Time)
Secretary ESL Bilingual Program (Internal Only)
Senior Accountant (Controller’s Office)
Web Portal Administrator (Part-Time)

To apply, please submit a letter of application, resume, salary requirements, & three references to:
Hudson County Community College
Human Resources Department
81 Sip Avenue, Mezzanine Level
Jersey City, NJ 07306
resumes@hccc.edu

For more information, please visit the New Jersey Higher Education Recruitment Consortium website at www.njherc.org, the HigherEdJobs.com website at www.higheredjobs.com, www.latinoshighered.com or contact the Human Resources Department at (201) 360-4070. For a detailed description of these positions, please visit the “Jobs @ HCCC” page at www.hccc.edu.
HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTED WITH 2016 ACRL EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES AWARD

The Hudson County Community College Library’s Fourth Annual Staff Development Day took place on Friday, May 6. The day began with the presentation of the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, which the Library received in the Community College category.

For this year’s activity, the Library staff was divided into groups of three one month before, and assigned a topic on which to present a poster. Poster sessions covered topics including the history of the Library, the Library’s role at the College, trends in academic libraries, and Makerspace achievements. Staff did an amazing job on their posters, and these posters will be presented to the College at the next College Service Day.

SIGMA KAPPA DELTA INDUCTION

The Omicron Epsilon chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta, the National English Honor Society for two-year colleges, held its third annual induction ceremony on April 23, 2016. Interim Associate Dean of Humanities Elizabeth Nesius was the featured speaker. Faculty advisor Alison Bach presided over the event and presented the candidates for induction. Chapter president Michael Anchundia welcomed and introduced the new inductees. Executive board members Rabab Gasham, vice president, and Ninel Garrido-Trevino, event coordinator, conducted the ceremonial presentation of certificates.

Membership in the Omicron Epsilon chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta is open to Hudson County Community College students who have completed 12 credits with a 3.0 GPA and no grade lower than B in any English classes.

For more information about Sigma Kappa Delta, please contact Alison Bach at abach@hccc.edu.

CULINARY CLUB

The Library staff shows off their team jackets in recognition of the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Pictured from left: Olga Tablata, Chef Courtney Payne and Athena Brown take a short photo opportunity during preparation for the Culinary Club fundraising event on Saturday May 14 at the Culinary Conference Center.
HCCC STUDENT TO REPRESENT CROATIA IN 2016 SUMMER OLYMPICS

Hudson County Community College President Glen Gabert, Ph.D. (second from right) congratulates HCCC student Matea Samardzic (center) on her qualification to compete in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Brazil. Samardzic will represent Croatia on its swim team. They are pictured with, from left, Joseph Napolitano, Sr., Executive Director of Pershing Field Babe Ruth League (at whose pool Samardzic practices) and Secretary of the HCCC Foundation Board of Directors; Samardzic’s coach, Mohamed Abdelalal, and Joseph Sansone, HCCC Vice President for Development.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SAINT PETER’S UNIVERSITY SIGN ‘HONORS-TO-HONORS’ DUAL ADMISSION AGREEMENT

On Thursday, April 28, academic leaders from Hudson County Community College and Saint Peter’s University met to formalize an agreement between the two institutions for a new Honors-to-Honors Dual Agreement program.

Under the terms of the agreement, qualifying HCCC Honors Program students, who otherwise meet Saint Peter’s admissions requirements, will be admitted with full junior status into the Honors Program at Saint Peter’s. Students must also (1) have a 3.5 grade point average in honors courses at HCCC, (2) have a 3.5 overall grade point average; and (3) have completed an honors courses with a grade of B or higher.

Seated from left: Dr. Eric Friedman, HCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Eugene J. Cornacchia, President of Saint Peter’s University. Standing from left: Christopher Wahl, HCCC Dean of Instruction/Arts; Dr. Paula P. Pando, Vice President for North Hudson Campus and Student Affairs; and Dr. Gerard O’Sullivan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for Saint Peter’s University.

3RD ANNUAL STAR (SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION) LUNCHEON

On Thursday, April 28, the Hudson County Community College Foundation, Joseph Sansone, Vice President for Development, and Dr. Paula P. Pando, Vice President for the North Hudson Campus and Student Affairs held a special awards luncheon to acknowledge employees who have many years of service, demonstrate outstanding service to students and fellow employees. Milestone honorees received gifts of appreciation.

Retired Employees
Barry Tomkins
Ruby Jones
Reina Marcucci
Robert Cruz

30 Years
Nitzia Berrio
Iris Herrador
Mojdeh Tabatabaei
Gary Bensky

20 Years
Gilma Acosta
Carmen De Jesus
Frederick Medina
Milena Moscoso
Patricia Murphy

15 Years
Sandra Aviles
Ines Franco

10 Years
Margaret Bellanich
Cynthia Coulter
Michael De Matas
Michael Ferlise
Lisa Fetter
Jo Ann Kulpkea
Ryan Martin
James Oliver

5 Years
Joseph Caniglia
Jacqueline Castro
Christopher Drew
Kevin Eng
Velino Joasii
Sean Kerwick
Catherine Sweeting

The 2016 Employee Courtesy Service Award winners were:
Zuany Chicas
Lisbetty Fetter
Oliva Montero

Joseph Sansone, Vice President for Development (left) and HCCC President Dr. Glen Gabert congratulate Employee Courtesy Award winners (from left) Zuany Chicas, Lisbetty Fetter, and Oliva Montero.

Valerie Prink
Julio Maldonado
Mark Murray
Elena Nebrebecki
Dr. Rafaela Pernice
Taramatty Persaud
Rafiq Siddiqui
Richard Skinner
Mildred Vera-Match

Timothy Peacock
Yeurys Pujols

5 Years
Joseph Caniglia
Jacqueline Castro
Christopher Drew
Kevin Eng
Velino Joasii
Sean Kerwick
Catherine Sweeting

The 2016 Employee Courtesy Service Award winners were:
Zuany Chicas
Lisbetty Fetter
Oliva Montero
Donor Acknowledgments

Thank you to James Byrne for the generous donation of the Native American artifacts and the paintings.

Thank you to Jack and Ann Felice, and Manuel G. Razetto for their generous donations in support of the Pope Pius XII exhibition.

Artist News

Harmony Hammond, whose work is installed in the North Hudson Campus, will be exhibiting her work at Alexander Gray Associates in Chelsea through June 25. She is also the author of Lesbian Art in America: A Contemporary History, which introduces the strong array of queer/feminist art being created by contemporary artists. In a recent interview with Clarity Haynes, Hammond was asked about her comment that her paintings “perform queerly.” Hammond says, “I was referring to the fugitive aspect of the dark blue/black paintings from 2009 to 2013 — the indeterminacy. Despite the materiality of the thick paint, you can’t quite locate color, surface, or space. Is it blue? Black? Metallic? Color shifts, at times appearing burnished or iridescent. In their refusal to be any one color, the paintings can be seen to occupy some sort of fugitive or outlaw space that rejects the narrative of monochrome painting, at the same time it refuses to look stereotypically queer. Thus we can say the paintings perform queerly.” She added, about her art-making, “Work grows out of work. It is process-based; I don’t make sketches. I have learned how to listen, and I have developed a criticality, and therefore intentionality. After all these years of painting, I trust where the process takes me.”

If you can’t get up to the Bronx Museum to see Valeri Larko’s exhibit, a copy of the exhibition catalog can be found here: http://www.valerilarko.com/valeri_contents/publications/news/ValeriLarko_BronxMuseumCatalog.pdf The exhibition is on view through June 26. You can see the Collection’s Larko painting in the new Library Building at Jounal Square.

John Masi, Howard, 2012. C-print, digital image. This photograph is installed on the second floor of 2 Enos Place (J Building).

John Masi, whose photograph Howard is installed on the second floor of 2 Enos Place, is having a photography exhibition called “Vintage New Jersey” at the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Art Gallery, 79 S. Livingston in Livingston, New Jersey through Labor Day.

A lovely Robert Natkin lithograph is installed on the first floor of the nursing program at the Cundari Building. If you are interested in his work, you might enjoy the exhibit at the Edward Hopper House in Nyack through June 26. Called “Side by Side,” the exhibit features abstract colorful works both by Natkin and by his wife Judith Dolnick. They painted Side-by-side for over six decades. In the artists’ book at the exhibit, in an interview with Natkin, he reports that once, he was so enraptured by a Vermeer at the Frick Museum in New York City that he leaned over and licked it. He was surprised to find it tasted like dust and old paint. Although no one caught Natkin tasting Vermeer, perhaps this behavior helps explains why so many famous works at museums now have a glass covering to protect them, and sometimes a velvet rope to keep people away.

If you like the Kiki Smith work on view on the second floor of the North Hudson Campus, you might enjoy visiting the website of the Peters Projects exhibition, “Woven Tales,” of Smith’s tapestries through July 30, http://www.petersprojects.com/kiki-smith-woven-tales. There is also a free catalogue available at the website. Smith talks about working on these large tapestries: To work large is “to emphasize the holiness of it … Historically, these things were made to blanket walls ... They're blanketing space. In mosques, you have the kilims that are hundreds of years old sitting on top of each other for prayer, and there’s that relationship between cloth and life and protection.” Two more works by Smith are slated for installation later this year on campus.

Joan Snyder, whose work Oasis is installed on the fourth floor of 70 Sip, has a current exhibition at parrasch heijnen gallery in Los Angeles through June 10. In conjunction with the exhibition, Snyder was interviewed, and talked about expressionism, something which many people find confusing. When asked, “What is your definition of expressionism?” Snyder responded, “I think it’s someone who expresses a certain amount of emotion in a painting, letting it all hang out in some ways. The opposite would be cool, or impersonal or minimal maybe.”

Super Indian: Fritz Scholder, 1967–1980 is a show at the Phoenix Art Museum in Arizona, through June 5. The exhibit features over 40 oil paintings and prints by the Luiseño artist. The exhibition celebrates the work of Scholder, who was one of the first Native artists to find mainstream success while rejecting the conventional way of depicting Native Americans. He integrated bright colors and abstract forms in his work, making his art both reflect the Native American world and the world of popular culture. The Scholder work in the HCCC Foundation Art Collection shows a Native American man wearing cool dark sunglasses. We plan to install the work later this year.

HCCC CELEBRATED PRIDE BREAKFAST/EVENTS

On Wednesday, April 27, the Georgia Brooks Stonewall Project at Hudson County Community College observed the second annual Georgia Brooks Memorial Fund Breakfast in the sixth floor atrium of the College’s Library Building. The proceeds from the breakfast will benefit student scholarships at HCCC. The breakfast was the last in a series of events at the College celebrating LGBTQIA Pride, including: “Looking Back/Looking Forward: NYC’s Gay Pride Parades 1979 – 1995,” an exhibit by photographer Stanley Stellar; screenings and discussion of the Academy Award-winning film The Danish Girl; an LGBTQIA resource fair; a PRIDE Conference; and Safe Space training.

Pictured from left: Glen Gabert, Ph.D., President of Hudson County Community College; Gregory D. Ratcliff, partner of Dr. Gabert; keynote speaker Hunter O’Hanian, Director of the Leslie-Lohman Museum, Vanessa Brooks (Georgia’s daughter), and Rebecca Davis, Assistant Director, Center for Academic & Student Success
Hudson County Community College and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presented “An Afternoon in Bollywood”—a free chamber music event at the Benjamin J. Dineen III & Dennis C. Hull Gallery in Jersey City on Friday, May 6. The event was made possible through a two-year partnership between the NJSO and PSEG Foundation to help celebrate diversity within communities and connect families with unique cultural experiences.

A five-member chamber ensemble performed “Jai Ho” from the international smash hit Slumdog Millionaire, along with classics by Bollywood composers like the legendary Pyarelal Sharma, who has composed music for nearly 500 films over the last 50 years.

The event was free and open to the public.

The performers included NJSO violinists Wendy Chen and Jim Tsao, violist Elzbieta Weyman, cellist Sarah Seiver and percussionist James Musto.

About the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Named “a vital, artistically significant musical organization” by The Wall Street Journal, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra’s superb musicians.

Under the bold leadership of Music Director Jacques Lacombe, the NJSO presents classical, pop, and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at the State Theatre in New Brunswick, Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, and BergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities, and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra’s statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include school-time Concerts for Young People performances, NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, and El Sistema-inspired NJSO CHAMPS (Character, Achievement, and Music Project). The NJSO’s REACH (Resources for Education and Community Harmony) chamber music program annually brings original programs—designed and performed by NJSO musicians—to a variety of settings, reaching as more than 22,000 people in nearly all of New Jersey’s 21 counties.

For more information about the NJSO, visit www.njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org. Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra’s website.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra’s programs are made possible in part by The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations, and individual donors.

PSEG Foundation

The PSEG Foundation (501c3) is the philanthropic arm of Public Service Enterprise Group (NYSE: PEG). The Foundation generally supports and invests in programs in three areas: community and the environment, education, and safety. The Foundation provides grants to organizations in communities served by PSEG and its subsidiaries. PSEG (NYSE: PEG) is a diversified energy company based in Newark, N.J. PSEG has three main subsidiaries: PSE&G, N.J.’s largest and oldest combined gas and electric delivery company, PSEG Power, a merchant power generation company, and PSEG Long Island, operator of the Long Island Power Authority’s transmission and distribution system.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENT FREE BOLLYWOOD CHAMBER CONCERT

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) held the opening reception for the newest installation at the College’s Benjamin J. Dineen, III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery. Titled “Unframed,” the exhibit showcases an exciting collection of more than 50 artists who represent the College’s award-winning faculty, as well as studio arts students and alumni.

“Unframed” is open to the general public through Thursday, June 9, 2016. There is no charge for admission.

HCCC Director of Cultural Affairs Michelle Vitale said the exhibit was curated by HCCC Associate Professor of Fine Arts Jeremiah Teipen and includes a full range of studio arts—drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, video, and digital works. She cautioned that the exhibit’s name should not be taken literally as it is meant to convey that ideas cannot be framed, but rather, are exchanged and interpreted and exchanged again and again.

The HCCC Benjamin J. Dineen, III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery is located on the sixth floor of the College’s Library Building at 71 Sip Avenue in Jersey City, NJ — just across from the Journal Square PATH Transportation Center. The Gallery’s summer hours, are Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A curatorial tour was held at the Gallery on Thursday, May 26. In addition to Prof. Teipen who led the tour, artists whose works are in the exhibit — including Mark Ramos, Nooshin Rostami, Jason Josiah and Candice Fernandez — also were present to discuss their work.

Top photo: Pictured from left: Candice Fernandez, Adjunct Instructor Mark Ramos, Nooshin Rostami, Associate Professor Jeremiah Teipen, Jason Josiah, Director of Cultural Affairs Michelle Vitale, and Professor Laurie Riccadonna.

Bottom photo: Associate Professor Jeremiah Teipen leads a curatorial tour of the "Unframed" exhibit on May 26.
GRADUATION SALUTE: APRIL 21, 2016

EOF GRADUATION DINNER: APRIL 22, 2016

STUDENT EXCELLENCE & ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: MAY 2, 2016
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS INDUCTION - MAY 10, 2016

GRADUATION FORMAL - LIBERTY HOUSE: MAY 17, 2016

GRADUATION BBQ - JOURNAL SQUARE: MAY, 16, 2016
Congratulations to the Class of 2016!
Steven Michael Galarza
Valedictorian of the Class of 2016

On Thursday evening, May 19, Steven Michael Galarza took the stage at the New Jersey Performing Art Center in Newark as the Valedictorian of the Hudson County Community College Class of 2016.

Mr. Galarza, a computer science major, will attend Rutgers University - New Brunswick this fall on a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship. He chose to study at Hudson County Community College (HCCC) after graduating from Union City High School two years ago because HCCC is affordable and close to where he lives in Union City.

During his time at HCCC Mr. Galarza was president of the College’s Computer Science Club, a member of the Engineering Club, and a member of Beta Alpha Phi, the College’s chapter of the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, he tutored students in math and science at the College’s award-winning Abegail Douglas-Johnson Academic Support Services Center.

Not surprisingly Mr. Galarza, who has wanted to make video games that “would change the world” since he was a child, says his favorite memories of HCCC include being president of the Computer Science Club and “hanging out” in the College’s computer labs.

Last year, Mr. Galarza was part of a team of HCCC students who attended “HackRU” at Rutgers University - New Brunswick. The two-day programming challenge event brought together undergraduate students from all over the world. The HCCC team created a prototype app named RUMe that matches roommates for the dorms. The team’s final app received attention from Addteq, a company that specializes in software release management. One of Addteq’s clients is the city of New Brunswick whose objective during the event was to find students who could help further the development of New Brunswick through technology. Impressed with the potential use of the students’ application in analytics, Addteq extended an offer to the HCCC students to help further develop RUMe for the city during the summer. The offer included up to $30,000 in mentoring for the summer and the opportunity to meet the mayor of New Brunswick and discuss technology with regards to the state of the city.

Mr. Galarza says there are many who have inspired and impacted his educational journey at HCCC, especially Professors Khan and Siddiqui who challenged students to think differently. He advises future HCCC students to take full advantage of all the College has to offer, to know what’s going on and to be conscious of the many opportunities that are available.
Division-Wide Events

On May 12, NTP hosted a Lunch & Learn dedicated to spine health at the Culinary Conference Center. Special workshop leaders Jenina Villasin, Director of Rehabilitation, PT, from A Better Life Physical Therapy in Journal Square and Camelia Perez, Certified Vinyasa Yoga Instructor, of CamilleYa Yoga and Yoga in Lincoln Park, led business partners and community members in an enjoyable and informative session. Attendees received tips on preventing and relieving back pain, learned about workplace ergonomics, and participated in a fun, office-friendly yoga class.

The Division of Non-Traditional Programs congratulates its staff on their graduation from Hudson County Community College on May 19. NTP Office Assistant, Jonathan Madrid received a Business (Liberal Arts) A.A., COL Administrative Assistant Zakia Hmamou received an A.S. in Engineering Science and CBI Work-study Office Assistant Carolyn Aldaz received a Business (Liberal Arts) A.A. Jonathan will be moving on to Saint Peter's University, Zakia has started New Jersey Institute of Technology and Carolyn will be starting Rutgers Business School in the fall.

Center for Online Learning

Instructional Technology Workshops

The Center for Online Learning (COL) offers workshops for faculty, adjuncts, and staff on Blackboard (the College’s Learning Management System) and Collaborate (a web conferencing tool tightly integrated with Blackboard) as well as on best practices for teaching online, hybrid, and web-enhanced courses.

To view the current schedule visit the COL Portal and click on the [Workshops] tab.

Under Development: New Online Courses

Among the courses being developed this summer for delivery as fully online courses are History of Western Civilization I (HIS 210) and History of Western Civilization II (HIS 211). For these course developments, the Center is working with faculty members Antonio Acevedo and Nicole Rizzuto of the History Department in the Division of Social Sciences.

Community Education – In Your Community

HCCC employees receive 10% off all classes! To register go to: www.hccc.edu/communityeducation and click on "Register for Programs"

**JUNE CLASSES**

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More information about online courses at Hudson County Community College can be found at www.hccc.edu/onlinelearning.
Union City High School seniors successfully completed their first year of the childcare association program. Through much focus, commitment, and diligence in their studies, hands on site efforts, and portfolio development, these stellar students earned 11 credits towards their degree, and had the opportunity to take the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Exam.

These students and their success is the result of strong support and instructional leadership from our very own professor Stony Pak, Alison Frairs, former Coordinator of the Childcare Program, and Debbi Addas, Director at Union City High School for the Continuing Business Education program (CBE). This program enables students to gain experience and certification so that they are prepared to work beyond high school and complete their post-secondary education. Congratulations Union City LEAP students!

More LEAP Success from Union City High School Students!

On May 6, the Union City High School students successfully earned six college credits upon completion of the Culinary LEAP Program. They had Top Chef level guidance throughout their experiential course work as they studied alongside Chef Philip Cafasso, Paul Dillon, Associate Dean of Business, Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management, Debbi Addas, Chef Sean, Yamilet Sanchez, and Mr. Lewis Ryan.

Dr. Eric Friedman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, will attend Jobs for the Future’s 2016 Summer Meeting of the Postsecondary State Policy Network in July in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He will participate as a member of the New Jersey Team. The 2016 Summer Meeting is the latest in a series of semi-annual conferences. JFF has held for the Postsecondary State Policy Network for more than a decade. The conference has been designed for state policy teams, funders, and partners in the Postsecondary State Policy Network, including leaders from states participating in Completion by Design, Achieving the Dream, and the Student Success Center initiative.

Librarian Kate Bellody completed the LibraryLinkNJ Super Library Supervisor Workshop Series on May 11. This series of four day-long workshops, held at Monroe Public Library, covered topics including What It Means to Be a Supervisor, HR Basics, Conflict Resolution, and more. Kate found the workshops very informative, and also enjoyed meeting librarians from around the state and hearing about initiatives in their libraries.

Dr. Elena Gorokhova’s second memoir, Russian Tattoo, has been shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. This biennial award, presented by the Stanford University Libraries, is intended to encourage new or emerging writers and honor the Saroyan literary legacy of originality, vitality, and stylistic innovation. The Saroyan Prize recognizes newly published works of both fiction and non-fiction.

On Thursday, April 28, Hope Guirantes and Joseph Pascale led a poetry workshop in the Library Makerspace in honor of National Poetry Month. Students and faculty enjoyed an afternoon of discussing poetry and writing original poems. College staff are always invited to participate in Library Makerspace events.

Eduardo Paolo Minguzzi, who earned a Computer Arts A.F.A. degree from Hudson County Community College, received a Founders’ Day Award from New York University. Top-ranking baccalaureate candidates and graduates are named University Honors Scholars as a Commencement honor. Recipients receive a gold honors tassel to be worn during Commencement Exercises and an individually inscribed Founders Day Certificate that commemorates the incorporation of New York University.

Laurie Riccadonna, Coordinator/Professor of Fine Art, delivered a presentation at the West New York Art Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 27. She spoke on the importance of arts education to art award winners from kindergarten to grade 12.

La-Trenda Ross, a 2006 graduate of the College and former Alumni Representative to the College’s Board of Trustees, was sworn in as a Commissioner on the Hoboken Housing Authority on May 13.

Marvin Smith, Director of Contracts and Procurement, has been designated as a Certified Purchasing Professional by the American Purchasing Society. The APS is an organization of buyers, purchasing managers, executives, and others interested in the purchasing profession.
READY TO WORK

Catherine Mirasol (left) and Aycha Edwards preparing documents for the Ready to Work program in Home Health Aide.

Hudson County Community College has become the gateway to an innovative ready-to-work program in Home Health Aide. Through a unique grant partnership with the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development and CareFinders, a service provider, HCCC has been recruiting students to fill 90 positions in Jersey City and West New York as certified Home Health Aides.

Catherine Mirasol, Assistant Director for the Center for Business and Industry (CBI) at HCCC, and Aycha Edwards, Coordinator for CBI, have been running information sessions and recruiting workshops for the past three months. "We get a good turnout at the info sessions, and then we move candidates into the screening process," said Mirasol. "For those who do not qualify for the ready-to-work grant, we offer training through another program at the Federal level, the TAACCCT grant, an allied health funding source."

Ana Chapman McCausland, the Dean for Non-Traditional Programs at the College said that "these grants are a lifeline for community members who need training and employment opportunities right here in New Jersey."

Ready to Work grants support aspiring allied health workers and those who will continue on to careers in health services. One of HCCC’s strategic goals is to provide more programs that enable students to move right into work opportunities.

“Our goal, and the goal of the Workforce Consortium,” said Dr. Eric Friedman, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, “is to provide students with the skills, training, and educational opportunities they need to succeed in the 21st century. It doesn’t matter to us whether the student moves through a grant-funded workforce program, a series of courses in the non-credit division, or more traditional credit-based programs; the bottom line is to prepare students for success.”

For more information on the programs, contact Aycha Edwards at aedwards@hccc.edu.

SPRING THEATRE FESTIVAL

Kian Wilson (left), as Ester, and James Aquije, as Victor, perform a scene from Ruby Rae Spiegel’s "Dry Land."

Joseph Gallo, Theatre Arts Instructor, thanks the audience for attending the performance as the cast members of all five plays take a final bow.

HONORS SHOWCASE

On Thursday, May 5, the Honors Program held a daylong event showcasing the College’s Honors students. At noon, students delivered oral presentations during the Student Paper Presentation, and later in the afternoon, students displayed their work in a Poster and Project Showcase. The theme for the Spring 2016 event was “Pursuit of Knowledge.”

Jennie Ulerio, a student in the Principles of Sociology honors section taught by Prof. Michael Ferlise, delivers a presentation on online dating.

HCCW WITNESSES GROUNDBREAKING AT HCST

On Monday evening, May 2, Kevin G. Callahan, J.S.C. (ret.) was presented with the Liberty Bell Award by Lori Cieckiewicz, Esq., President of the Hudson County Bar Association at the Hudson Vicinage’s Annual Law Day observance. The event was hosted in collaboration with the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Each year, the Hudson County Vicinage Law Day Committee presents the Liberty Bell Award to an individual organization or an individual for outstanding community service and for playing “a successful and helpful role in assuring the rule of law continues to play a role in our society.”

The national theme of this year’s Law Day was the 50th anniversary of the landmark decision Miranda v. Arizona, in which the United States Supreme Court ruled that law enforcement must advise criminal suspects of their rights before beginning an interrogation.

Judge Callahan retired from the Criminal Division of the Hudson County Superior Court in 2011, after 28 years of service. He currently is a faculty member of the Criminal Justice Department at Saint Peter’s University and director of the University’s Criminal Justice Department Internship Program. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Seton Hall University School of Law and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint Peter’s College (now Saint Peter’s University).

Judge Callahan joined the Hudson County Community College Board of Directors in December 2013.
**STEM NEWS**

**DIVERSITY MAGAZINE CELEBRATES THIRD PUBLICATION**

On Wednesday, April 27, Hudson County Community College celebrated the publication of a new edition of DIVERSITY, a magazine which highlights ESL student essays. Three ESL instructors edit the magazine each semester: Dr. Shannonine M. Caruana, Maria Schirita, and Johanna van Gendt. For each of the past three semesters, when the magazine is ready, students who submitted essays have been invited to come and read them in front of the College community.

The event had a great turnout in April, with the entire Scott Ring Room filled.

**HCCC INSTALLS BICYCLE RACKS**

New bicycle racks have been installed around Hudson County Community College. The location of the racks was determined by the Safety & Security Department based on history of bicycle usage on campus, and considering safety conditions for each location.

The following campus locations have installed racks:
- 70 Sip Avenue (A, 1)
- 71 Sip Avenue (L, 1)
- 25 Journal Square (B, 2)
- Culinary Plaza Park (across from E, 1)

**Electronics Projects Capstone**

As part of a capstone course called Electronics Projects (EET 228), students in the Electronics Engineering Program (STEM Division) are required to do research, select and implement a project that integrates several technologies in electronics, computer, and mechanical engineering. They were led by Dr. Youcef Oubraham, Professor of Computer Technology during this semester-long learning experience which prepares the students to real life work environments and provides them with the skills employers are looking for during the hiring process.

The completed projects are now displayed on the first floor of the Library Building for the public to see.

Hugo Iglesias, Beta Alpha Phi Vice President and an Engineering Science major, has been selected to participate in the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates Summer Program at Queensborough Community College in Bayside, N.Y.

**FDU ADMINISTRATORS VISIT HCCC**

On Wednesday, April 13, members of Fairleigh Dickinson University’s leadership visited Hudson County Community College, during which time they were served lunch and given a tour of the College. The College has partnered with the University’s Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies.

Pictured from left: Dr. Peter J. Woolley, Florham Campus Provost, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Christopher Wahl, Dean of Instruction/Arts, Hudson County Community College; Dr. Christopher Capuano, President-elect of FDU; Dr. Eric Friedman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, HCCC; and Dr. Ethne Schwarz, Associate Dean for Innovation and Strategic Initiatives in the College of Business, FDU.
HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30 AT THE COLLEGE’S JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) held an Open House Saturday, April 30 at the College’s Library Building at 71 Sip Avenue.

That same day, the College held a Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Open House & Market Place at the HCCC Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street.

The General Open House was filled with activities to help acquaint prospective students with the College, its degree and certificate programs, as well as services and programs, clubs and cultural offerings available to HCCC students.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 23 AT THE COLLEGE’S NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosted an Open House on Saturday, April 23 at the College’s North Hudson Campus – 4800 Kennedy Boulevard in Union City, NJ.

The Open House was available to all those interested in earning an Associate degree or certificate at HCCC.

Open House attendees were able to learn how they can save thousands of dollars on college tuition by earning an Associate degree at HCCC for a fraction of the cost of four-year colleges and universities.

Members of the HCCC faculty and staff provided information to prospective students about the College’s academic and career programs, including Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, Nursing, Business, Accounting, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Criminal Justice, and other studies. There will also be information about the HCCC Dual Admission programs with Saint Peter’s University and New Jersey City University, which not only save money but also time.

NURSING COLLEGE DAY FAIR

On Thursday, May 5, the CarePoint Health School of Nursing held a college fair for its nursing students. The event allowed students to meet representatives from nursing programs at nearby colleges and universities, and learn admission and degree requirements.

Institutions in attendance included Walden University, New Jersey City University, Saint Peter’s University, Grand Canyon University, Bloomfield College, Felician College, and the College of Saint Elizabeth.

Carol A. Fasano, MA, RN, ANP-BC, CNE, Dean, CarePoint Health School of Nursing, greets attendees.

Dr. Eric Friedman (left), Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. John Marlin, Dean of Instruction/Science, address attendees at the nursing college fair.
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON CULINARY ARTS AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

David Burke, internationally renowned chef and entrepreneur, speaking with Dr. Eric Friedman, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Ron Smith, Proprietor of Jersey City's Light Horse Tavern, speaking with members of the Hudson County College faculty.

David Burke, Assistant Professor Gary Bensky, and Paul Dillon, Associate Dean, Business, Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management.

John Palsi, Hudson County Schools of Technology, Sandra Bleckman, Talent Network Director for Hospitality in NJ, and Iris Gersh, Fairleigh Dickinson University

On Tuesday, May 10, Hudson County Community College held the inaugural meeting of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management. The formation of the committee is part of the College’s new Strategic Plan and includes charges such as “a comprehensive review of the current offerings” and “assurance of optimal utilization of the investment the College has made in the division.”

The committee comprises an executive committee and three working sub-committees: Partnerships/Outreach; Programs/Trends in Employment; and Conference Center. Each committee is co-chaired by an internal and external committee member.

The inaugural meeting started with a reception at which committee members were able to meet with members of the HCCC Board of Trustees. Presentations included an introduction and backgrounder on the Culinary Conference Center by Dr. Eric Friedman, the Chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee and Vice President for Academic Affairs, an overview of the current offerings by Associate Dean Paul Dillon, a review of enrollment data from the division by Dr. Jerry Trombella, Dean for Institutional Research and Planning, a review of community education offerings by Ana Chapman-McCausland, Dean of Non-Traditional Programs, and a comprehensive overview of the College and the reasons for the formation of the committee by HCCC President Dr. Glen Gabert.

Throughout the evening, internal staff and faculty members were able to meet with and learn from external committee members who represented the culinary and hospitality industries, as well as other school and college partners.

Membership on the committees is extremely diverse with representation by:

- Gary Bensky, Assistant Professor, Culinary Arts Institute
- Sandra Bleckman, Director of the Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Talent Network
- Clifford Brooks, part-time librarian at HCCC
- David Burke, chef, artist, entrepreneur, and inventor
- Philip Cafasso, Professor at HCCC’s Culinary Arts Institute
- Dr. Shannonine Caruana, ESL Instructor at HCCC
- Ana Chapman-McCausland, Dean of Non-Traditional Programs at HCCC
- Jeannie Cretella, co-founder of Landmark Hospitality, which owns and manages such distinctive venues as Liberty House Restaurant and the Stone House at Stirling Ridge
- Paul Dillon, Associate Dean of the Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management Division
- Chastity Farrell, Outreach Coordinator, Division of Non-Traditional Programs, HCCC Center for Business and Industry
- Dr. Eric M. Friedman, Vice President for Academic Affairs at HCCC
- Dr. Iris Gersh, Director of the Jersey City satellite campus of the Fairleigh Dickinson University International School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Marilou Halvorsen, President of the New Jersey Restaurant Association (NJRA)
- Beth Karam-Putt, distinguished pastry chef, cake designer and business owner
- Catherine Kearney, former Executive Chef at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jersey City and current Advisory Council member at HCCC
- Joanne Kosakowski, HCCC Board of Trustees
- Vanessa Martinez, Registrar’s Office, HCCC.
- Tim McMahon, president of McLoone’s Restaurant Group
- Siroun Meguerditchian, Professor, HCCC Culinary Arts Institute
- Jeffrey Nathan, known for his sophisticated, flavorful, and creative recipes, one of the most popular chefs in today’s market
- Lee Penna, Community Outreach/Special Events Coordinator for the Secaucus Public Library and the Town of Secaucus
- John P. Palsi, adjunct faculty member with FDU’s International School of Hospitality and Tourism Management who also teaches at the Hudson County Schools of Technology in culinary arts
- Rosemary Quinones-Ericson, Coordinator of Non-Credit Programs at HCCC
- Michael Reimer, Dean of Student Services at HCCC
- Tony Rico, Human Resources Director at Goya Foods
- Judith Ross, Vice President of the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce and Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Lu Anne Salonga, Director of the Conference Center at HCCC
- Yamilet Sanchez-Nunez, CBE Coordinator for the Union City Board of Education.
- Ron Smith, proprietor, Light House Tavern in Jersey City
- Diane Strass, Vice President, Jones & Associates Communications
- Joseph Tormey, Director of the International School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at FDU
- Dr. Jerry Trombella, HCCC Dean of Research and Planning
- Christopher Wahl, Dean of Instruction/Arts at HCCC
- Wayne Whinna, owner of Whinna Hospitality, which specializes in process improvements involving purchasing, top line revenue strategies, improved profitability, current culinary trends, productivity, food and beverage safety, sanitation standards, and organization for improved efficiency
- Veronica Zeichner, Chief Financial Officer at HCCC

At the end of the process, in December, the Executive Committee will be making a series of recommendations to the President and the Board of Trustees.
Welcome to HCCC! The CPT is a computerized assessment used to assist with English/Math course placement. Take the CPT seriously! Depending on your scores, you may have to register/pay for additional semesters of courses that do not bear college credit/count toward degree. The Writing Proficiency test is also part of the general CPT schedule.

You may be exempt from the CPT, if you have college-level transfer credit, qualifying ACT/SAT scores or Accuplacer scores from another institution. For more information, visit www.hccc.edu/testing

Before taking the CPT:
• Review, Brush-up, Study!!! See below for free study resources
• For special testing accommodations, contact Disability Support Services' at 201-360-4157 in advance.

On day of CPT:
• Make sure you eat and rest well
• Bring photo ID, College Wide ID #, pen, and pencil
• Report at least 10 minutes before the test start time
• Walk-ins accepted for 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. sessions;

Academic Success begins with preparation for the College Placement Test (Accuplacer)

June 2016
Terms: Summer II and Fall 2016

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TESTING LOCATIONS:
Journal Square (Main Campus): 71 Sip Avenue, Library Building, Lower Level Jersey City
NHC. (North Hudson Campus): 4800 Kennedy Blvd., Union City

College Placement Test
*Approximately 2-3 hours
1. Writeplacer: 1 hr. timed/typed essay
2. Reading Comprehension: untimed/multiple choice
3. Arithmetic: untimed/multiple choice
4. Elementary Algebra: untimed/multiple choice

Writing Proficiency Test
*90 minutes
The WPT is required when Eng 101 transcript is older than 10 years; this exam is handwritten.

English as a Second Language placement test
*Approximately 2.5-3.5 hours
1. ESL Reading Skills: untimed/multiple choice
2. ESL Language Use: untimed/multiple choice
3. ESL Listening: untimed/multiple choice
4. ESL Essay: 1 hr. timed/handwritten essay
5. Must be eligible to take Math Placement test

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http://www.hccc.edready.org

View additional Accuplacer Study Resources at:
www.hccc.edu/accuplacerstudyresources
CALANDER OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 1
Town Hall Follow-Up Meeting, 10 a.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Thursday, June 2
Nursing Health Fair, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., 870 Bergen Ave.

SAT Prep Open House, High Tech High School, 2000 85th Street, North Bergen, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 3 and Friday, June 10
Career Technical Education Assessment Institute, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., North Hudson Campus

Saturday, June 4
Adjunct Faculty Conference, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Culinary Conference Center - Scott Ring Room, 161 Newkirk Street

Monday, June 6 and Tuesday, June 7
Library Makerspace Open Hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library Building, 71 Sip Ave.

Monday, June 20 and Tuesday, June 21
Library Makerspace Open Hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library Building, 71 Sip Ave.

Tuesday, June 8
Intro to Computing with Workplace Applications (Tuesdays and Thursdays through June 30), 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Goodwill Industries, 400 Supor Blvd., Harrison. Learn the basics of computing with a focus on everyday employment applications. To register, please call (201) 360-4246 or -4224.

Wednesday, June 8
Information Session, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., North Hudson Campus, 4800 Kennedy Blvd., Union City

Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14
Library Makerspace Open Hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library Building, 71 Sip Ave.

Tuesday, June 14
Meeting of Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, Mary T. Norton Room, 4th Floor, 70 Sip Avenue, 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 16
Nursing graduation ceremony, 6 p.m., Saint Peter’s University

Monday, June 20 and Tuesday, June 21
Library Makerspace Open Hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library Building, 71 Sip Ave.

Monday, June 20 – Wednesday, June 22
Professional Development Summer Institute for CTE Faculty, Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk St.

Wednesday, June 22 – Thursday, August 11
Exhibition: “La Dolce Vita,” Library Building, Sixth Floor, 71 Sip Ave. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday (closed July 4).

Wednesday, June 22
ESL program Review, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Library Building, 71 Sip Avenue, Room 518

Thursday, June 23
Space and Place: Historical Readings presented by U.S. History 105. Join us for an afternoon of historical readings inspired by personal journeys in the Dineen-Hull Gallery. HCCC students will perform selected prose that reflect themes explored in “La Dolce Vita” exhibition. 12 p.m., Library Building, 71 Sip Ave. Admission is free.

Saturday, June 25
Information and Registration Session for Summer Youth Program, North Hudson Campus, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4800 Kennedy Blvd., Union City, Student Lounge

Tuesday, June 28
Online Summer Session B begins

Thursday, June 30
Application deadline for tutors for Fall 2016 semester

MAKERSPACE

In May, graduating Hudson County Community College students had several opportunities to decorate their caps for Commencement. The Libraries at the Journal Square and North Hudson campuses made materials available for students to customize their caps during several sessions.

In May, the Libraries held a tournament for Super Smash Bros. Preliminary rounds were held at Journal Square on May 3 and North Hudson on May 4, with the winners of each campus competing in a final round in the Journal Square Library Makerspace on May 5.

Dear Friend of HCCC Foundation,

The Hudson County Community College Foundation is pleased to invite you to attend our Fourteenth Annual Golf Outing. It will be held on Monday, July 11, 2016 at the picturesque Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Proceeds from the event will be dedicated to the growth and development of the College and students. Space is limited, so make your reservations soon. We look forward to seeing you for a day of outstanding golf and fun.

For more information, please contact:
Joseph Sansone,
Vice President for Development
70 Sip Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 360-4006
Fax (201) 656-1799
jsansone@hccc.edu
ALUMNI CORNER

Omar Giner, Class of 1989
A.A.S., Culinary Arts
Chef/Owner of La Isla Restaurant, Hoboken, NJ

What factors led you to decide to attend Hudson County Community College?
I attended Hudson because it was close to me and couldn’t afford to dorm as well as the price, I also took a tour of the facility when I was in high school.

What is your favorite memory of the College, in or out of the classroom?
Hanging with students at a bar called Jack Millers down the street and B.S. about what we learned that day or what was happening in the industry.

How did you become interested in Culinary Arts?
I became interested one day when I attended a job fair I saw food presented in beautiful ways.

How did your time at HCCC prepare you for your career/ life now?
I believe the strict no-nonsense education I received molded me to be the leader.

What is a typical work day for you?
A typical day for is coming in early taking an inventory of what’s needed as well organizing and supervising the work load.

What has been the most memorable project/case you have worked on?
My most memorable event was beating Bobby Flay in a throw down on Food Network in front of family, friends and students from the culinary program and Paul Dillon the dean of the program and my teacher.

Who are your biggest inspirations that have impacted your work in some way?
I believe I took something from some of my instructors that I felt impacted me (Chef Bensky showing up to work early in order to get all your things in order not to mention various cooking techniques.) (Chef Kevin O’Malley How to be a professional no nonsense B.S.) (Mrs. M how to carry yourself with class.) Lessons I use everyday.

What advice would you give to recent HCCC graduates?
The Dean at the time I was there always had a phrase he would use. (Keep your eye on the Doughnut and not the hole.) and to me it meant things will happen along the way that may detract you from your goals but don’t lose sight of the big picture.

What advice do you have for those students who are just starting their college career?
The best advice I can give is sometimes you have to take a couple of steps back before you can move forward.

CALL FOR POETRY AND PROSE: ‘MEMORIES – PERSONAL REFLECTIONS OF 9/11’

The Department of Cultural Affairs is issuing an open call to the Hudson County community (both the College and the county) for submissions of 750-1,000-word prose or poetry (50 lines maximum). The submissions should be related to the theme, “Memories – Personal Reflections of 9/11.” The submission deadline will be announced at a future date.

For more information, please email gallery@hccc.edu.