

BCC News For Alumni & Friends

PUBLISHED BY THE BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

FALL 2012



Ellen Kennedy Confirmed as BCC's Seventh President

Ellen Kennedy officially became BCC's seventh President on July 1 of this year, after serving as Interim President for six months. Kennedy succeeds Dr. Paul Raverta who retired in January, 2012.

Kennedy was chosen for the position after a national search yielded 38 applications and three finalists. Since 2008, Kennedy has served as BCC's Vice President for Administration and Finance. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts, a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University and is currently completing a doctoral degree from Northeastern University. Kennedy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from North

Adams State College, now MCLA, and began her career in higher education at her alma mater serving in a variety of roles including Coordinator of Office Services, Director of Administration Services, Chief Advancement Officer and President of the MCLA Foundation.

"It is a great honor to be appointed the seventh president of Berkshire Community College," said Kennedy.

"I look forward to working with constituencies on campus, in Berkshire County and throughout the Commonwealth to meet and exceed the expectations of our students, their current and future employers, and the communities we serve."

An official inaugural celebration will be planned in 2013.

BCC Board of Trustees

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Dear Alumni and Friends:

I am honored and humbled to greet you as the seventh President of Berkshire Community College.

The quad is full of colorful flowers and trees this autumn, accented by our new Adirondack chairs that encourage students, faculty and staff alike to take a breather in the midst of hurried days. Now greeting you when you arrive on campus is the beautiful sculpture "Salem 7," a gift from the late artist Antoni Milkowski's wife Susan Hartung, in recognition of his work with our own Professor Emeritus Benigna Chilla.

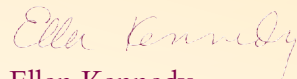
The massive envelope project, restoring and sealing the exterior of campus buildings and replacing windows will soon be complete. This fall the new Hoffmann Environmental and Sustainable Energy Center has opened, completely restoring Hoffmann's classroom and laboratory space. We are grateful to Congressman John Olver and the Northeast Utilities Foundation for their support of this project.

These are just the tangible projects we can see! So much transformation is going on in the minds of our students throughout the classrooms and labs, and in the community we serve.

And just as this newsletter goes to press, Governor Patrick has informed me that the \$21.1 Million Capital Project for the Renovation of Hawthorne and Melville has been approved for funding. This will be a game changer for BCC and I look forward to keeping you posted as we progress through that major renovation.

For those alumni who are close by, I hope you come back to campus to see the changes. For those of you further away, I hope this newsletter brings a bit of BCC to you wherever you are.

Thank you for your continued support of your community college.



Ellen Kennedy
President



Dear Alumni and Friends:

Autumn greetings to you! BCC is beautiful in the fall and we are all inspired by the new class of students on campus. I'd love to hear what you remember about your first semester here. Drop me a line at jkerwood@berkshirecc.edu, or share your thoughts at www.facebook.com/berkshirecc. I'd love to hear from you!



Jennifer Kerwood
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
413-236-2188, jkerwood@berkshirecc.edu



BCC Foundation Awards Scholarships at 38th Annual Awards and Honors Night

173 BCC students were awarded more than \$190,000 in scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 on May 31st at the annual awards and honors night. Students who maintain a 3.0 grade point average or above are invited to apply for BCC Foundation Scholarships each year and awards are granted after a competitive review. Thirty-three additional academic awards were granted to top performers in various fields of study. On May 8th, 18 first-year students were presented the Falconer Award for outstanding service or academic studies.

We are inspired by the students' stories as we celebrate their success, along with the faculty who support them and the donors who make the scholarship awards possible.



Admissions Counselor Eleanore Velez presents a New World Fund Scholarship to Irina Bezrukova.



Bill Larkin presents the Larkin Family Scholarship to Katherine Coscia. A strong supporter of BCC, Bill passed away in August, 2012.

Welcome Newest Alumni: Class of 2012

On Friday, June 1, the ranks of BCC Alumni widened as 308 students earned 263 degrees and 55 certificates at BCC's 52nd Commencement exercises at Tanglewood in Lenox. The graduates hailed from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Belarus, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Russia and Ukraine. Keynote speaker Victoria Kennedy, attorney, advocate and wife of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, shared from her husband's encouraging words, urging students to



Congratulations Graduates!

“extend yourself to collaborate and seek common ground with others,” and to make service and voting a priority. Valedictorian Caitlyn Bessette of Richmond challenged her classmates to think broadly about success and said that BCC helped her learn that “if you do what you love, and work hard, you will reach the top.” Bessette is attending Western New England University this fall.



Former President Paul Raverta presents the first scholarship in his name to Parkpoom Seesangrit.



Valedictorian Caitlyn Bessette

1960 SOCIETY

Planned gifts through your estate can create a permanent legacy and can ensure a lasting impact on students' lives. Gifts can endow funds to support academic programs, faculty initiatives, and student scholarships. The 1960 Society recognizes individuals who have made arrangements, through their will or estate plan, to leave a gift to the BCC Foundation. For more information, please contact Jennifer Kerwood at 413-236-2188 or jkerwood@berkshirecc.edu.



1960 Society Members

Anonymous	Barbara A. Nichols
Rev. Canon Stephen Booth	Charlott Powell
Thomas Carpenter	Mark Rosso
Grace Hampel	Alexander Sharpe
Cornelia Hourihan	Beth Wallace
Aldo Manfredo	Richard Whitehead
Faith Mong	

Many people are choosing the Berkshire Community College Foundation as a beneficiary of funds in honor of a loved one's passing. This is a lovely tribute to someone who holds Berkshire Community College in high regard.

Gifts have been received recently in memory of:
Christopher Bard, Betty Doscher, Helen Hennessy, Gail MacMillan, Gloria Moffa, Shawn Reilly and Ellen Ruberto.

2012-2013 Annual Fund Campaign Kicks Off

The Annual Fund campaign is underway! Gifts from alumni and friends, faculty and staff, business partners, parents and grandparents are transforming the campus. Your gifts enable technology upgrades in the classrooms, new lab equipment, emergency financial aid, and unique learning experiences for students. Please support the Annual Fund by responding to your mailed appeal or by visiting www.berkshirecc.edu/donatingonline.



Designated gifts to the Language Program purchased new headphones for the language laboratory.



Unrestricted gifts to the BCC Foundation were paired with designated grants to refurbish Melville Hall, Room 208 (above) and Room 236.



Unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund furnished our new classrooms in the Silvio O. Conte Federal Building.

Alumni Career Network

The most useful item in the BCC student's career development toolkit is not an interest inventory, or a resume, or a clever list of the top 10 most important and exciting careers and how to get them. It is not a list of the do's and the don'ts of interviewing, though this and all of the tools can be useful and essential. Instead, the most important part of a student's career development process is the people he or she meets: the teachers or coaches who engaged him in high school; the person who inspired her to apply to BCC; the faculty members who push him to stretch his idea of himself; the staff members who help her find her way around campus and through the maze of application and financial aid policies; and you, the alumni/ae. You alums working out in the field, in whatever field, whether you studied for it or found your way to it after you earned your degree, can be an essential piece of a student's career development work.



At BCC, we are hoping to engage alumni in a career network for students. It would be moderated by BCC's career counselor and would serve as a referral point for students who are at a certain point in their career research. They would benefit from a meeting, or conference call, with a person in their chosen field, or in a field that they are seriously considering. They would have an opportunity to see a particular workplace, and learn about the trends and culture of a profession.

If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, please call Judith Monachina, Career Counselor: 413-236-1611 or e-mail: jmonachina@berkshirecc.edu.

OLLI at BCC

The fourth consecutive OLLI Open House and Art Show was held on May 26-27 at the Lenox Library, featuring a silent auction and thirty artists displaying watercolors, pastels, oils, sculpture, mixed media and photography. This was preceded by the annual Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture on May 25 at the Colonial Theatre, featuring speaker Rikki Klieman, television anchor, legal analyst, actor and author speaking on Law, Politics and the Media.

Off to a great start this fall, the Classes, Special Events, and Distinguished Speakers Series continue to inspire. For more information on membership or fall and winter programming, visit www.berkshireolli.org.



Ron Stewart, chair of OLLI's Open House and Art Show event.

Book Loan Program



With the cost of textbooks continuing to rise, a small program within the BCC Foundation is becoming increasingly tapped to help students prepare for class. Started by Professor Chris Laney, the Book Loan program provides books on loan to students for the semester at no charge. Monetary donations and books donated by faculty members that are sold for cash allow the fund to purchase new books to grow the inventory. This fall, 85 students applied to the program, but only 45 could be helped. For information on supporting this fund, contact Ann in the BCC Foundation Office at aphillips@berkshirecc.edu or 413-236-2185.

Nuclea Biotechnologies and BCC present 3rd Summer Science Institute

High School juniors and seniors attended a five-day program at BCC's main campus led by Nuclea Biotechnologies this past July to learn about the latest techniques in biotechnology. The program, offered at no cost to students, introduces them to hands-on classroom and laboratory work, exposing them to potential college study and careers.

We thank Nuclea President and BCC Alum Patrick Muraca and all of the Nuclea staff for making this unique opportunity available to over 140 area students over the last three years.



Alumni Trip to Apulia Italy



Join alumni from other New England schools in an educational 8-day trip to southern Italy's Apulia region in September, 2013. Visit UNESCO World Heritage sites, an olive mill and take a winery tour. The trip also includes visits in Bari, Lecce, dubbed "the Florence of the South," Trani and Ostuni. Advance paperless bookings before November 20 are discounted at \$1,000 off per couple. For more information, visit <http://BERKCC.ahitravel.com/promolisting.aspx>.

Paul E. Raverta Tennis Complex Dedicated

The new tennis complex named to honor Berkshire Community College's sixth President was officially dedicated on June 18 with a ceremony, lunch, and of course, tennis. Under Raverta's leadership, a mini-campaign was forged to raise funds to restore the courts that had fallen into disrepair. In addition, two U-10 courts were built perfectly sized for children to learn the game. The project was made possible thanks to the Berkshire Bank Foundation, Berkshire Bank Foundation Legacy Region, Petricca Industries, and the Western Massachusetts, New England, and National chapters of the United States Tennis Association.

Speakers at the ceremony included Master of Ceremonies Jeff Doscher, Interim President Ellen Kennedy, Trustee Susan Lombard, members of the Berkshire Legislative delegation, Pittsfield Mayor Daniel Bianchi, Pittsfield City Councilor John Krol, and USTA New England Board of Directors Vice-President William Ballen.



Paul and Sharon Raverta in front of the sign they just unveiled dedicating the Paul E. Raverta Tennis Complex.



Project funders and Interim President Ellen Kennedy join members of the legislative delegation, other elected officials, Trustees and Paul Raverta in a ceremonial "First Serve" on the new courts.



Trustees (L-R) Susan Lombard, Michael Supranowicz, Darlene Rodowicz, Raymond Dunham, and Ross Dindio with Paul Raverta.

New Scholarship to Honor Former Cafeteria Director



Max and Shirley Bookless

Nancy and Maxine Bookless have endowed the Max and Shirley Bookless Scholarship Fund through the BCC Foundation to support a culinary arts student each year. Their father Max, inventor of the famous “15 cent sauce grinder,” ran BCC’s first concession at the former Second Street campus, and later served as the food services manager at the West Street campus until his retirement in 1983. Max was a huge supporter of BCC’s Culinary and Hospitality programs, offering the kitchen for students to train in after-hours until the culinary lab was established. He was known to be a sympathetic ear to numerous students over the years and made sure no one went hungry. Max passed away in January 2012 at the age of 93.



As a tribute to Max and his wife Shirley, this fund will award scholarships to students in the culinary arts program who are high achieving, with a special focus on those with financial need. To contribute to the fund, checks can be sent to the BCC Foundation with “Max Bookless” in the memo field, or visit www.berkshirecc.edu/donatingonline.

In Memoriam

Richard J. “Barnsy” Barnes ’82

Robert A. Bresnahan ’81

John “Jack” William Carter III, former student

Stella Doris Coolbroth, former student

Paulette K. Crossman ’89

Amy Cummings, former student

Mayra Demedeiros ’02

Anne M. Desilvia ’90

Willard “Bill” French ’85

John Gaspardi ’72

Scott Haring ’86

Heather D. Kearney Kosla, former student

Jennifer Kickery, former student

Jerry Langer ’87

Kitty Lichtenstein, former Foundation Director

Gina A. Linton ’06

Gail MacMillan ’78

Louis James Marchetti ’71

Robert Mills, former student

Mary A. Monteleone ’92

Elizabeth “Betty” V. Norton, former student

Frederick “John” Noyes, former student

Eleanor L. O’Brien ’89

Robert “Bob” McClean O’Neil ’88

Gerald P. “Jay” Oslizio, former student

Carol Pepper ’84

Mary Pezanelli, former student

Karen Marie Reilly ’84

Gary P. Rochelo ’74

Sophorn Samrith ’01

Carol J. Savery, former student

Judith R. Shaffer ’69

Sybil M. Trudeau ’78

Morton Wayne, former faculty member

Kudos to...

The **Pittsfield Rotary Club** for awarding the **Paul Harris Scholarship** to a BCC Student for the Fall 2012 Semester.

Elisa Giardina, a Business Administration major, was selected to receive this generous award.

Pictured at right are Rotary member David Hall, Elisa Giardina, and BCC's Jennifer Kerwood.



Billie Allard RN, a member of BCC's Nursing Class of 1977, for her address at the 2012 Nursing Pinning Ceremony. Billie, Director of Education at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center was chosen by the nursing students to give the address.



Above, Billie (left) with Nursing Program Director Liz Kassel (right).



2012 Liberal Arts, Biological Sciences graduate **Karla Pauta** for being designated one of the Commonwealth's "29 Who Shine" by **Governor Deval Patrick** at a State House ceremony on May 10. Students from

the state's community colleges, state universities, and the University of Massachusetts were honored for academic achievement and contributions to the Commonwealth. Karla came to the United States from Ecuador as a teenager, graduated from Pittsfield High School in 2008 and maintained a 3.5 GPA at BCC as an Honors Student while volunteering in a number of activities on campus. Said Karla, "I can't wait to continue my education and reach my life-long dream of becoming a pediatrician!"

Above, Karla Pauta and Governor Patrick.

Tom Robinson, a 2009 Culinary Arts and 2010 Hospitality Administration graduate for receiving the 2012 Margery and William Barrett Public Service Award. The award, managed by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, provides a \$500 donation to the nonprofit of the honoree's choice. Tom volunteers for the Meals Ministry Program at the Parish of Pope John Paul the Great in Adams, providing a monthly hot meal to all in need.

Ann Phillips, a 1973 Liberal Arts graduate and a Staff Assistant for Institutional Advancement and the BCC Foundation, for being named the 2012 "Friends of Guidance" by the Berkshire County School Counselors Association. Ann was honored for services rendered to the many students and families of Berkshire County. Ann manages the yearly BCC Scholarship campaign and chairs the review and selection committee.

Congratulations!

Gifts to the BCC Foundation were recently received in honor of...

Olivia's Bat Mitzvah! From Philip and Linda Halpern

President Ellen Kennedy from Lawrence and Hulda Jowett

Sandra and Gerald Ketcham's 25th Anniversary

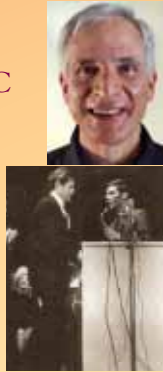
Catching up with...

Marty Shindler '69

When Marty read the story about fellow Accounting alumni in the Fall 2011 BCC News (Accounting for Success in Today's Economy), he was brought back to his own days at BCC on the Common. He echoes what many alumni from that era have told us: Professor Don Dwyer made accounting interesting by relating the coursework to real life situations.

Marty came to BCC with an idea to take some business courses, and ended up acing accounting and going on to Bentley with all of his accounting credits accepted. As President of Student Government in his second year, Marty had the pleasure of introducing Senator Edward M. Kennedy to speak before a packed auditorium of students, and he toured the property that eventually housed BCC's current West Street campus.

Since graduating from Bentley, Marty has built a successful career beginning as a CPA and becoming a business strategist with a focus in the entertainment and entertainment technology industries. Marty



credits BCC with providing a great opportunity and foundation for his future endeavors, and feels that especially in today's economy, community colleges serve a very important purpose as part of the overall education system. He would be interested in getting back in touch with former classmates at Marty@iShindler.com.



Jerry McBee '02

When talking to Jerry, you are aware that he is an individual who is both traveling hopefully and who is determined to arrive.

At the age of 13, Jerry determined that he would work in the restaurant field. He attended the culinary program at McCann Technical School and credits the mentoring from instructor Renata Lang for getting him started on the right track. From there, Jerry entered the Hospitality Administration program at BCC and thrived under the tutelage of Nancy Ruderman and Carl Maaia. Jerry was accepted into three top culinary schools, and chose Johnson and Wales. He transferred into Johnson and Wales' fast-track one year program the same year that institution was ranked #1 in the nation.

Returning to the Berkshires, he worked in many area restaurants and even opened his own deli and bakery, but found the recession was too much for his new business to succeed. He joined the team at Hops and Vines Beer Garden and Brasserie in Williamstown as pastry chef a year and a half ago, and concurrently was quickly promoted to Chef and now Store Manager at the sister-business Sweets and Beans. Alejandra Lolos is a great mentor and very supportive says Jerry.

Jerry loves that the restaurant field is constantly changing as he thrives in an environment that rewards innovation. He is the quintessential planner and is always moving toward the next step, knowing that there is always something new to learn in preparing to seize the next opportunity.



The 12th Annual Not Your Average Dog Show

will be

Sunday, February 10

at Paterson Field House

Stay tuned for
registration forms,
information on the Berkshire
Humane Society's
Chili Cook-Off and MORE!



Alumni Notes

Bill McCluskey



Bill grew up in Pittsfield in a family with twins and triplets as siblings, and says there is no way he could have gone to college without BCC.

It was perfect for him because he could live at home and pay his way through school by working at WBEC Radio and the former Berkshire County Savings Bank. He always knew he wanted to work in hospitality, spending ten summers working at an inn in New Hampshire. Bill took classes in business administration at BCC between 1970 and 1972, and transferred to UMASS as a Hotel Restaurant Travel Administration major. Bill credits the faculty at BCC with introducing to him the possibilities beyond Pittsfield.

His career has certainly taken him beyond Pittsfield. After working at the Hilton downtown, Bill has worked at hotels in Colorado, Hawaii, Germany, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Illinois, where he now serves as Senior Catering Sales Manager at The Drake Hotel. In fact, we reconnected with him when former Trustee Chair Susan Lombard and her husband David met Bill on a trip through Chicago, reinforcing the old adage that you can't go far without meeting a BCC alum!

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Please visit the alumni page at www.berkshirecc.edu/alumni or contact Jennifer Kerwood at 413-236-2188 and we'll include you in the next edition of Alumni Notes.

1964

Dianne (LaBarge) Fairbanks (Liberal Arts) is retired and living in Traverse City, Michigan.

1968

David Lee (Business Administration) is retired and working part time in Westfield, Mass. David transferred to UMASS Amherst after BCC.

1980

Judith Monachina (Human Services) is Coordinator of Cooperative Education and Career Services at Berkshire Community College. After BCC, Judith earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Elms College and a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University.

1983

Lisa (Mooney) Sherman (Selected Studies) is Payroll Manager at Barcelo Crestline Corporation. After BCC, she earned a psychology degree from North Adams State College (now MCLA).

1985

Kevin Kennedy (Hotel Restaurant Management) has been promoted to the position of Director of Food Services at Berkshire Community College. He has served as Assistant Director for many years.

1986

Karin (Kittler Bondini) Paras (Business Administration) recently retired from AGI Polymatrix after 27 years of employment with the company as Human Resources Director and then Plant Manager. After BCC, Karin attended Southern Vermont College and then earned an MEd from Cambridge College.

1991

Katherine (Castagna) Kerin (Office Management) has joined the staff at Berkshire Community College providing part-time clerical and administrative support for the President's Office.

1995

James Truden is Assistant Vice President and Store Manager at TD Bank's Center Street Adams branch.

2002

Jamie Amuso (Liberal Arts) is engaged to Jesse Underwood-Miller, a BCC Fire Science student. Jamie is a CT Technologist at Berkshire Medical Center.

2003

Amanda Charow (Liberal Arts) was married October 13, 2012 to Jonathan McGregor. Amanda is a Vocational Rehab Counselor for the NYS Education Department in Albany, New York. After BCC, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Springfield College.

2004

Kevin Rahilly (Computer Information Systems and '93 Business Administration) works at Berkshire Health Systems and earned a bachelor's degree from MCLA in Accounting. His eldest son Cameron is attending BCC this fall.

2006

Aleksey Adishchev (Business Administration) works in Accounts Administration at Xerox in Canada. Aleksey transferred to SUNY Albany after BCC.

2007

Dan Larrow (Physical Fitness) has opened Raw Sports Performance and Fitness at 146 North Street in Pittsfield, Mass. He earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science at Springfield College after BCC.

2008

Jennifer Borgo (Nursing) was married to Anthony Denovellis on August 19, 2011. She works as a Registered Nurse at Berkshire Medical Center.



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