



Continuum

A publication of Onondaga Community College, the OCC Foundation and the Alumni Council

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The Onondaga women's lacrosse team captured the NJCAA National Championship title this year in their inaugural season.

For complete highlights on all of Onondaga's championship teams, see page 8.

What's inside:

A Message From Onondaga's President.....	2
Donald Mawhinney Receives Honor.....	2
A Message From the Board Chair.....	3
New Sustainable Master Landscape Plan.....	3
Workforce Development: Fueling Local Economy.....	3
Alumni Profile: Art Rees.....	4
Faculty and Staff Achievements.....	4
Onondaga Employees Honored at Diversity Luncheon.....	5
Alumni at National Grid Give Back to Onondaga.....	5
Alumni News and Notes.....	5-8
OCC Scholarship Reception and 2009 Alumni Faces.....	6
Your Chance to Make History.....	7
Message From the Foundation Chair.....	7
The Home of Champions.....	8-9
Coach Wilbur Inducted into High School Hall of Fame.....	9
Onondaga Received \$100,000 Grant for Veterans.....	10
High-Tech and Hot Careers.....	11
Retirements.....	11
Onondaga Celebrated National Volunteer Week.....	12
2009 Jazz Fest.....	12

Million Dollar Gift From SRC and SRCtec

SRC, an independent, not-for-profit research and development organization and its subsidiary, SRCtec, pledged a \$1 million gift to Onondaga Community College's *Reach Beyond* capital campaign. The gift, the largest in the history of the College, is pledged for Onondaga's Presidential Scholars Program, specifically the new SRC Presidential Scholarship. The gift also establishes the "SRC Arena" on the campus.

The centerpiece of the *Reach Beyond* campaign, the Presidential Scholars Program will provide a full scholarship to Onondaga Community College for all Onondaga County high school students graduating in the top 20 percent of their class. The program was announced by Onondaga Community College in 2007. SRC, formerly Syracuse Research Corporation, pledged \$525,000 to the program in February 2008. The \$1 million gift brings SRC and SRCtec's support for the Presidential Scholars Program to \$1.525 million within a 16-month period.

"All of us at Onondaga Community College – especially our students – are deeply grateful to the employees of SRC



SRC President Bob Roberts and Onondaga President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. with the rendering of the new 10,000-seat SRC Arena.

and SRCtec for their incredibly generous support for this institution," said Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. "Their life-changing investment in local students demonstrates a deep commitment to access to higher education for all local citizens, access that is vital for continued economic growth and community prosperity," said Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D.

continued on page 11



Athletic Field Named

Family and friends of Board of Trustees Chair David W. Murphy gathered on the College's new athletic field in April as it was officially named in his honor as David W. Murphy Field. A bronze relief featuring an etching of the field along with a likeness of Chairman Murphy was unveiled at the dedication.

"David Murphy's dedication to this College has been nothing short of exemplary," said Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D.

"For years to come, David W. Murphy Field will serve future generations of Onondaga students who will proudly cheer for and represent this College in athletic competition, an important component of the full college experience," she added.

Welcoming and congratulatory remarks were delivered by Dr. Sydow; Board of Trustees Vice Chair Connie M. Whitton; former Onondaga County Executive Nicholas J. Pirro;

continued on page 3



Message From the President

In his highly acclaimed book, *The World is Flat*, *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman addresses the skills necessary to prepare the workforce for new middle class jobs.

Friedman refers to this group as “The New Middle,” noting that there are skills that make workers “less vulnerable to the downward pressures of outsourcing, automation, and technological change...”

In Central New York and throughout the nation, we know increasingly well that we live and work not on an isolated island of commerce but in a global neighborhood where the flattening forces of change place enormous pressure on organizations and individuals to compete. Friedman points out that those who will succeed in this new economy possess among other skills, the ability to collaborate, synthesize and adapt. These skills are core to the mission of a community college.

Collaboration - The very nature of community college classrooms – small class sizes and faculty who are passionate about teaching – foster collaboration. Fewer students in a classroom means that faculty can – and do – utilize collaborative learning techniques in the classroom and involve students in group projects outside of the classroom to foster the ability to work together to accomplish common goals. This experience, which is often not possible in other

colleges and universities except in upper-division and graduate courses where classes are smaller, is provided to freshmen and sophomores at Onondaga Community College. Employers throughout the business community demand that employees possess the ability to work effectively in teams, and Onondaga Community College graduates enter this workforce well prepared for teamwork.

Synthesis - The ability to find commonality and connections among seemingly disparate subjects is highly prized in the community college environment. Students, regardless of major, are exposed to a core general education curriculum consisting of mathematics, social sciences, sciences, the arts, and other disciplines necessary for a well-rounded, educated individual. Some institutions, particularly those in the for-profit technology school sector, do not expose students to this core curriculum. The global marketplace heavily favors those with a broad base of adaptable skills and knowledge that can be synthesized to develop and implement solutions to real-world business problems. Onondaga Community College graduates are highly adept at applying their knowledge and skills in the workforce.

Adaptation - In 2004, Onondaga Community College conducted extensive research regarding our ‘promise’ to students and to the Central New York community that we serve. Students reported that one of the traits they value most about Onondaga’s programs is creativity. On the surface, this can be perplexing as our 11,000 students are enrolled in nearly 50 programs of

study, including highly technical programs, such as architectural technology and engineering science. Further review of the research and subsequent discussions with students revealed that they perceive creativity to be a defining characteristic of the Onondaga curriculum as a whole, and that creativity is broadly emphasized as a necessary skill for success. Likewise, our students bring a creativity that is born of experience. Often they have had to be creative, and have had to adapt, in order to succeed. Our students piece together financial aid, juggle jobs, meet family obligations, manage aging parents, and a multitude of other priorities while simultaneously engaging in the rigors of college life. It is this real-world experience of community college graduates that provides significant value to today’s workplace.

While lingering economic challenges are resonating across all sectors of business and education, these challenges are highlighting the extreme value of community colleges in American higher education. For it is community colleges, and our unique ability to infuse skills of collaboration, synthesis and adaptation in 21st century workers, that are helping to secure our collective success in this new “flat world.”

Sincerely,

Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D., President

Donald M. Mawhinney Jr., Esq., Receives Honor and Reappointment to Board

The longest-serving Trustee in the 64-campus State University of New York system, Donald M. Mawhinney Jr., Esq., began his 48th year of service to students and the community as he was reappointed to the College’s Board of Trustees by County Executive Joanne M. Mahoney and the County Legislature on March 12.

“Through his years on the Board, Don has provided a steady hand of leadership and is a formidable advocate for the Board’s role in serving and supporting our College and community. I am certain that Don will continue to serve as a strong asset to the entire Board of Trustees.”

—David W. Murphy, Board of Trustees Chair

“The value of Trustee Mawhinney’s 48 years of faithful service to Onondaga Community College and the people of Central New York is simply beyond measure,” said Onondaga President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D., who also attended the committee meeting. “He is an inspiration to us all.”

“We are fortunate that we have such a committed supporter of our community college in Don Mawhinney,” said Onondaga County Executive Joanne M. Mahoney. “As a founding member of the OCC Board of Trustees, his guidance and knowledge are of great advantage to the college and community alike, and I am grateful for his continued service to Onondaga County.”

Trustee Mawhinney was appointed as a founding member of the Board of Trustees in 1961. In his nearly five decades of distinguished service to Onondaga, he has served in multiple leadership roles and has held the positions of board chair, vice-chair, secretary and chair of various board committees, including chairman of the construction committee for the Onondaga Hill campus. In 1980, he incorporated the OCC Foundation, serving as a founding member and President of its Board of Directors. Mawhinney was also a leader in establishing the College’s nationally accredited Children’s Learning Center.

Trustee Mawhinney was also recently honored with the Anne M. Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement. This is the highest award that the New York



Trustee Donald M. Mawhinney Jr., Esq.

Community College Trustee association (NYCCT) can bestow on a present or former trustee to recognize extraordinary leadership and achievement demonstrated by a trustee, as well as outstanding contributions to his or her college or the community college system as a whole.

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Message From Board Chair David W. Murphy

There have been glimmers of light recently at the end of the economic tunnel but we all share in the concern about the stability of our economy both here at home and around the world. Central New York has not been

unscathed economically, but the strong base and remarkable resilience of this community, especially compared with others around the country, continues to pay broad dividends.

Our citizenry is one of the most educated in the nation with more than half of our adult population having at least some college, and 35 colleges and universities located within 100 miles of the city center (source: Syracuse/Central New York Executive Profile 2008, Syracuse Economic Growth Council). Onondaga Community College, one of the most efficient community colleges in the state according to cost per student expenditures, has an important role in ensuring that our workforce is educated and ready to compete.

The student body at Onondaga – 11,000 strong – consists of people from our community rather than those who come here only to attend college. While our region's impressive population of college students effectively contributes to economic impact, it is students who remain here after graduation who will propel us forward. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Onondaga students remain in this area to live and work following graduation. Furthermore, students benefit from higher earnings, thereby expanding the tax base and reducing the burden on state and local taxpayers. In the aggregate, Onondaga students generate about \$43.3 million annually in higher earnings due to their education (source: Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc., 2008).

Onondaga Community College is chartered as a public institution and has proven itself to be an excellent steward of public funds. These local and state funds are increasingly hard to come by although the need, as demonstrated by double-digit enrollment growth, remains. This has necessitated significant efforts to fill the gap through increasing entrepreneurialism on the part of the College. Entrepreneurial endeavors, demonstrated most notably in the College's three residence halls and its effort to raise private dollars through the \$6 million *Reach Beyond* capital campaign and other fundraising efforts, must be priorities to ensure that Onondaga Community College meets ever-growing student and citizen demand.

Onondaga County's workforce and Onondaga's community college are among the very best in the nation. Strong investment by the public, individuals, companies and organizations will ensure that both of these highly coveted assets endure.

Sincerely,

David Murphy, Chairman

Chairman Murphy was recently presented with the 2009 New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) Trustee Leadership Award, which is presented to a "trustee who has demonstrated a significant commitment to the community college mission through exceptional leadership, inspired vision and outstanding professional contributions in support of the goals and accomplishments of the college."

Congratulations!

New Sustainable Master Landscape Plan

It's more than just letting the grass grow. Onondaga's 280 acres are undergoing what are noticeable changes to the campus landscaping.

For many years, Onondaga, like most colleges, universities, and organizations, maintained a largely grass landscape that is carefully mowed on a weekly basis. In fact, for approximately a six-month period between May and October, the Grounds crew at Onondaga typically mows 55 acres of grass each week.

As part of the College's ongoing commitment to sustainability, and in keeping with The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment letter signed by Dr. Sydow in 2007, the implementation of the sustainable master landscape plan will reduce the College's dependence on lawn-mowing and return portions of the campus landscape to a more natural state of grasses, meadows and wildflowers.

This effort complements other campus sustainability initiatives such as purchasing renewable energy, minimizing

waste and maximizing recycling efforts, and reducing energy consumption.

Small bright green flags are in place indicating areas that are being returned to a more natural state. While some areas of the campus may look a bit unkempt initially, natural re-growth in these areas will occur over time. The Grounds crew will continue to mow those areas adjacent to roadways and sidewalks as necessary for recreation and other purposes.

"As an educational institution that attracts more than 60,000 visitors annually, this is a tremendous opportunity for us to educate the larger community around us about the importance of sustainable landscaping, which is very common in many areas of the country already," said William Emm, chief financial officer, whose responsibilities also include the Facilities department.



Murphy Field Dedication

continued from front page

Deputy County Executive Ed Kochian (representing County Executive Joanne Mahoney); New York State Assemblyman Albert Stirpe; Congressman Daniel Maffei; Chairman and CEO of Pioneer Companies Michael P. Falcone and Onondaga Athletics Director Robert McKenney.

To view a photo slideshow from this event, go to sunyocc.edu and click on "News and Events."



Onondaga Board Chair David W. Murphy (far right) with from left lacrosse players Pete Mumford and Shaun Church, Coach Chuck Wilbur and Athletics Director Robert McKenney.

Workforce Development: Fueling the Local Economy

Now more than ever, the economy is making front page headlines. It's top of mind for everyone from employers and employees to unemployed jobseekers. People are looking for solid footing during uncertain times. Employers are investigating ways to retrain their existing workforce; employees are looking for opportunities to advance in their current jobs; and the unemployed are looking for ways to train for the jobs that are in demand now.

Enter Onondaga Community College. Most people think of Onondaga as the place to earn a two-year degree. And that's certainly evidenced by the 38,000+ alumni who have attended from the College since 1962.

But as the "community's college," there is another critical service that Onondaga provides that may not be as well-known. Through the comprehensive efforts of the College's Workforce Development office (a part of the Continuing and Extended Learning division), Onondaga is uniquely aligned to meet the needs of employees and employers in the Central New York community.

Partnership With CNY Works

Funded through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, CNY Works is a local, not-for-profit corporation that, according to their Web site, works to "provide a single point of entry for workforce information." In addition to providing job retraining through skills assessments and resume writing workshops, CNY Works offers computer classes in partnership with Onondaga Community College (taught by Onondaga professors through a Perkins Grant.)

According to David Wall, director of corporate and public partnerships at Onondaga, CNY Works is often the first step if a person has been laid off or if they want retraining to find a new career through the Department of Labor. Simply put, for people who have been laid off, CNY Works is an invaluable community resource.

"Based upon the evolving demands of the economy - largely driven by technological advancement, globalization and changing demographics - skills development beyond high school has become vital as individuals evolve throughout their lifelong workforce skills," said Lenore S. Sealy, executive

continued on page 9

Alumni Profile: Art Rees, National Grid

Evolution of A Campus – Through The Eyes of An Alumnus

Art Rees remembers his first accounting class. It was held in the maintenance building in the early 1970s. Back then, he says, if you didn't get to class fast enough, you might find yourself sitting behind a pole. Much has changed since then. In fact, while it can be argued that the central mission of the College – to provide high-quality education accessible to the community – has remained a constant over the years, the face of the campus is light years away from that small campus on a hill that Rees remembers nearly four decades ago.

When Rees came to Onondaga, he had no idea what he wanted to do. Newly married with a young child, Rees took some classes and gravitated toward accounting. There was one professor in particular, Mr. William Markovitz, who took a personal interest in his success. "I remember how he (Markovitz) and his wife went out of their way to take my wife and me out to dinner to talk about life after a two-year college," says Rees. "I thought it would end after a two-year degree and

I'd get a job as a clerk somewhere. But he saw that I had potential, and he encouraged me to go even further."

Markovitz encouraged Rees to consider transferring to Le Moyne College after graduation. Rees followed his advice, attended and graduated from Le Moyne and then began a successful career. He's now an accounting professional at National Grid, but he says he's never forgotten the kindness of Professor Markovitz.

Art Rees is one of many alumni who are actively giving back to the College that gave them their start. He has created an endowed scholarship in Markovitz's name. "He had the confidence in me that I lacked about myself back then," says Rees. "I feel totally indebted to him; he was absolutely instrumental in my life."



Arthur H. Rees '78

Rees is actively involved in the College's Capital Campaign: *Reach Beyond*, but he says that overall it's important to give back. "The first two years, I feel, are the most important," says Rees. "I really believe that the educational experience I had at OCC made a huge difference in my life."

Rees returns to campus as often as he can. In fact he returned in the early 90s to get a degree in photography – just because it had always interested him. He says he's amazed at the transformation of the campus over the years, and he's particularly looking forward to the new sports arena.

"The fact that I was able to see this [campus] grow from one small building to the spectacular campus that's here today is just amazing to me. But when I think back to those people who actually set up the community college back in the 1950s, they had such foresight," says Rees. "They saw something that wasn't even in existence. And I think that's what is going on today. There is foresight in looking toward the future. And I'm just so happy to be a part of that."

To learn more about the *Reach Beyond* campaign, go to sunyocc.edu/reachbeyond.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

David Abrams, Music, was awarded "Best in Category" by the Syracuse Press Club in the category of "Critiques." The award was presented at the club's annual Awards Recognition Dinner event. Dr. Abrams' winning entry was a review of a Syracuse Symphony Orchestra Classics Series concert and was published in *The Post-Standard* last fall. Over the years, Dr. Abrams has won eight Syracuse Press Club awards, including the prestigious Robert Haggart Memorial Award for Best Column.

Kate Bellefeuille, Financial Aid, earned a master of science in management from Keuka College.

BJ Bellen, Disability Services Office, recently co-authored an article which was published in the national publication, *Community College Times*. The article focused on how Onondaga is creating best practices to improve service to students with disabilities. In particular, the article focused on students who have autism and Asperger's Syndrome. She co-authored the article with associate vice president of student services, Stephanie Reynolds.

Mark Bremer, Biology, co-authored a research article that is currently in press. The article involves conservation biology research conducted in Costa Rica over a number of years.

Rob Bridge, Music, performed as part of the College's band "The Treblemakers" at the annual Rockin' the Red Cross Battle of The Bands in April. The 16-member band kicked off the event with a rousing performance of "Dance to the Music."

Malkiel Choseed, Ph.D., English, delivered a paper "Partnering With Your Campus Library: Linking First Year Composition and Campus Libraries as Sites of Epistemological Construction" at the 2009 Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Francisco, CA. He also participated in a roundtable titled, "Online Tutoring: Lessons Learned" at the 2009 SUNY Conference on Instructional Technologies at SUNY Oswego.

Katharine Ciarelli, Music, played a 'Lunch Hour' recital with Professor Kevin Moore at the Everson Museum.

Tracey Clancy, Mathematics, gave two presentations at the 2009 Annual NYSMATYC Conference in Albany, "Infusing Sustainability into Your College Math Class" and "Coloring in Math Class."

Mindy Epstein-Hinshaw, Continuing and Extended Learning, earned a master of science in management from Keuka College.

Gabriel Gurley, Photography, was notified recently that his book, *OpenOffice.org* (and its related online course package) was chosen as one of two required textbooks by the University of California at San Diego. His book will be used to teach students quantitative computer skills using the Writer and Calc portions of the software.

Gloria Heffernan, Service-Learning and Volunteering, co-presented "Students as Poll-Workers: Partnering with Federal and County Government to Grow Student Civic Engagement" with Professor Nina Tamrowski at the

Gulf-South Summit on "Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education" in Baton Rouge, LA earlier this year.

Patrick Kenny, Social Science, completed his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Rochester.

John LaRose, Men's Tennis Coach, recently achieved his 400th career victory.

Tina May, Human Services, co-presented "Modeling Cross-Disciplinary Relationships to Effect Institutional Change" with Professor Nina Tamrowski at the Gulf-South Summit on "Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education" in Baton Rouge, LA earlier this year.

Kevin Moore, Music, played two 'Lunch Hour' recitals at the Everson Museum; one was a piano four-hand recital with Katharine Ciarelli, the other was an all-Beethoven Sonata recital with Andy Zaplatynsky, Concertmaster of the Syracuse Symphony. Moore played the second of eight all-Beethoven recitals two times in an ongoing Beethoven Sonata Cycle, once at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY and once at Onondaga. Moore had his composed choral piece, *The Prayer of St. Simeon* (Nunc dimittis) premiered by the OCC Concert Choir in their Spring Concert conducted by Professor Richard McCullough and accompanied on piano by Professor Katharine Ciarelli.

Terry Mulhauser, Health and Physical Education, performed as part of the College's band "The Treblemakers" at the annual Rockin' the Red Cross Battle of The Bands in April. The 16-member band kicked off the event with a rousing performance of "Dance to the Music."

Thomas Murphy, Criminal Justice, was chosen by the Onondaga County Bar Association as a Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award winner.

Katherine Perry, Admission, was a guest speaker at Fayetteville-Manlius High School's Junior Parent Night and presented the topic: "Access for All: The Benefits of a Community College Education."

Stephen Pierson, English/Reading/Communication, was promoted to associate professor effective this fall. He also gave a paper at the Thirteenth Annual Mikhail Bakhtin Conference in London, Canada, at the University of Western Ontario. The paper was titled, "The Question of a Dialogic Lyric Reconsidered."

Stephanie Reynolds, Student Services, recently co-authored an article which was published in the national publication, *Community College Times*. The article focused on how Onondaga is creating best practices to improve service to students with disabilities. In particular, the article focused on students who have autism and Asperger's Syndrome. She co-authored the article with BJ Bellen, coordinator of the Disability Services Office.

Laurel Saiz, English/Reading/Communication, presented "Tracking the Evolution of Text Using Innovative Internet Resources" at the 18th Annual Conference on Instructional Technologies: "Engaging Minds: Innovative Teaching and Learning" in May at SUNY Oswego. She also met with leaders of the National Center for Science Education in Oakland, California, in March,

to discuss Onondaga's Honors Capstone course, "Darwin in Discourse: The Cultural Impact of the Theory of Evolution," taught by Saiz, Biology Professor Thomas Keenan and Philosophy Professor Patrick Kenny.

Sheila Sicilia, Computer Studies, performed as part of the College's band "The Treblemakers" at the annual Rockin' the Red Cross Battle of The Bands in April. The 16-member band kicked off the event with a rousing performance of "Dance to the Music."

Nina Tamrowski, Political Science, co-presented "Modeling Cross-Disciplinary Relationships to Effect Institutional Change" with Professor Tina May at the Gulf-South Summit on "Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education" in Baton Rouge, LA earlier this year. She also co-presented "Students as Poll-Workers: Partnering with Federal and County Government to Grow Student Civic Engagement" with Gloria Heffernan, coordinator of service-learning and volunteering.

Jane Tanner, Mathematics, presented "What's Puzzling You?" at the Madison, Wisconsin Area Technical College's Mathematics Awareness Month Celebration in April. It was a lead-off presentation to the "Who Wants To Be A Sudoku Master 2009" competition held during the celebration. She made the same presentation at Southern New Hampshire University for the New England Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges (NEMATYC).

Scott Titus, Public Affairs, is the recipient of the 2009 SUNYCUAD (Council for University Advancement and Development) Charlton Scholarship which provides registration and all expenses to the SUNYCUAD Annual Educational Conference to be held this summer in Lake Placid, NY.

Angela Weiler, Library, completed a review of the Web site "Wired for Books" for CHOICE magazine. She is also serving as Conference Chair for the State University of New York Librarians Association Conference and was elected First Vice President of the association.

Chuck Wilbur, Men's Lacrosse Coach and Admission Counselor, was recently inducted into the Cicero-North Syracuse High School athletics hall of fame.

The OCC Latin Ensemble performed as part of the College's band "The Treblemakers" at the annual Rockin' the Red Cross Battle of The Bands in April. The 16-member band kicked off the event with a rousing performance of "Dance to the Music." Music student and lead vocalist Gabrielle Spossey won an award for Outstanding Vocals.

The Public Affairs Division at Onondaga was recognized with six 2009 Awards for Excellence by SUNYCUAD (Council for University Advancement and Development). The awards were in recognition of the Arts Across Campus: Arts, History and Music events; *Continuum*; the 2007-08 College annual report; visual design for Arts Across Campus publications; and internal communications.

Three Onondaga Employees Honored as 2009 YWCA Diversity Achievers

Onondaga Community College was an official sponsor of the 2009 YWCA Diversity Achievers Luncheon held in April at the Oncenter. Three Onondaga employees were honored for their commitment to the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Corey Hudson

Director, Educational Opportunity Program

Kathie Briggs, M.S., M.A.

Disability Services Specialist

Yvonne Fish-Kalland, D.A.

Associate Professor, English Department



From left: Corey Hudson; Interim AVP for Diversity Services, Professor Eunice Williams; Kathie Briggs and Dr. Yvonne Fish-Kalland.

Alumni at National Grid Giving Back

In March, Onondaga alumni who work for National Grid attended a special breakfast as part of the *Reach Beyond* campaign's outreach to alumni and the local corporate community.

Onondaga President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D., provided the group with a brief update on the exciting things happening on campus, and acknowledged the wonderful support of National Grid for the campaign and the impact of alumni on the College and the broader community. Also attending were members of the National Grid executive team including Kathy Lyford, vice president of operations, who discussed the strong educational partnerships between National Grid and the College.



Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D., (far left) with National Grid employees Art Rees '78 and Melanie Littlejohn discuss the Reach Beyond Capital Campaign.

In addition to facilitating the morning's discussion, OCC Foundation board member Melanie Littlejohn, vice-president of business services, talked specifically about National Grid's support of the Sankofa Project – a program that offers targeted support to traditionally under-represented students at Onondaga. Onondaga alumnus Jim Kelly, who also serves as an adjunct professor of electrical engineering technology, spoke about a new Lineman/Utility Worker certificate

program. And alumnus Arthur Rees '78 (see Alumni Profile on previous page) described the educational experience he had at Onondaga as 'pivotal'. His experience was the inspiration behind an endowed scholarship, the William E. Markovitz Accounting/Business Administration Scholarship, which he created in memory of a favorite professor.

To learn more about the *Reach Beyond* Capital Campaign and how you can participate, go to sunyocc.edu/reachbeyond.



Alumni NewsNotes

Robert G. Koolakian '64 is a consultant and historian for Hanover Square Preservation Committee aiding in the preservation and restoration of Syracuse's first National Landmark Preservation District. He authored the book, "A Struggle for Justice", a unique account of the beginning of the American Committee for Independence of Armenia, as told in the surviving papers of three accomplished Armenian-Americans from Syracuse, NY.

Thomas V. Leshendok '65 served with Army special forces in Vietnam where he received the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service. After his tour of duty, he earned a bachelor's degree in geology from SUNY Binghamton. Thomas worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Conservation Division of the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Lands Management. He retired in 2003 as deputy state director for mineral resources for the State of Nevada and was recognized by the Department of the Interior with the Honor Award for Meritorious Service in 2004. With great sadness, the College learned that Thomas passed away in November 2008.

Stanley D. Chesneski '68 is employed by Re/Max Masters located in Camillus, NY and was recently awarded the Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI) designation by the New York State Realtor Institute.

Lyle G. Hamm '68 retired from Taconic Hills Central School District in Craryville, NY after teaching music for 34 years. One of his former students, who won two Grammy Awards, presented him with one of her Grammy nomination medallions. Lyle says he loved Onondaga and that he has fond memories of classes on the top floor of Midtown Plaza and French horn lessons that were taken at Crouse College.

Douglas H. Earley '71 shared that he lost his first wife in 2000, remarried in 2002 and reports that the newest member of his family is his four-year old daughter. Doug is currently "semi-retired" and works as a part-time emergency department nurse in the emergency department at St. Clare's-Dover General Hospital in Dover, NJ.

Theresa M. Nichols '72 was named to the board of directors for the Women Business Owners Connection, the premier organization in CNY for women in business that supports and advances the success of women entrepreneurs.

Stephen J. Salanger '73 retired in November 2008 from the New York State Thruway Authority where he worked for 32 years. He was a toll taker supervisor at the time of his retirement.

Pollyann T. Young '73 is a nurse practitioner at the Bellevue Academy School-Based Health Center administered through the Syracuse Community Health Center, Syracuse, NY.

Glenn M. Race '74 received the prestigious Leadership Award from Prudential California Realty (PCR) in October 2008. This is the highest honor bestowed upon a leader in the organization and recognizes industry leaders who represent the company's core values and demonstrate operational success. Glenn joined PCR in 1997 and served as the residential sales manager in Modesto, CA for five years. He served as director of Career Development for his work on a highly successful PCR pre-license, live Real Estate course and the implementation of an effective "100 Days to Greatness" new sales professional program. He has more than 35 years of real estate experience and has earned the prestigious Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager (CRB), the Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), the Graduate of Realtors Institute (GRI) and the Certified Career Development Specialist (CCDS) designations.

Mary Jean B. Piraino '75 earned a bachelor's degree in history and psychology from Syracuse University, a master's degree in labor studies from the University of the District of Columbia, and a degree in human resource development from Marymount University, where she has served as an adjunct professor. She is currently assistant to the president at United Food and Commercial Workers International Union in Washington, DC. She is a supporter of public education and credits Onondaga for providing her with the firm foundation that led her to success in academics and her professional career.

Richard A. Penhall '76 has worked in the fields of steam fitting, heating ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing and electricity and has been employed in those fields of work at several local businesses including Crouse-Hinds, General Electric, Carrier, VanDuyn Home and Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center. Rick has been an active member of the Manlius Fire Department for more than twenty years. He is now a self-employed technician and is Mayor of the Village of Manlius, NY.

Ann M. Gaffney '77 is a dispatcher at the Onondaga County 911 Center on Onondaga Hill. Previously, she worked for the Syracuse Police and Onondaga County Sheriff's departments. She attended the Criminal Justice reunion held late last year in Syracuse.

Anne L. Aljets '78 has returned to the Syracuse area after living in Illinois for many years. While there, she worked for 20 years as a registered nurse caring for nursing home residents and an additional six years as a parish nurse.

John M. Chapman '78 earned a bachelor's degree in business from C.W. Post College/Long Island University and a master's degree from Chapman University. He now works for PAETEC Communications, in Fairport, NY as senior vice president for training and strategy. John has won several product innovation and marketing awards. He serves on the board of Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, NY and is an active volunteer at his church and local school district.

John M. Ciotti '79 is owner of the John Ciotti Insurance Agency in Liverpool, NY. He was recognized in November by Allstate Insurance Company for high standards in customer satisfaction, customer retention and profitability.

Laurie B. Larrabee '81 was one of 20 writers in the U.S. nominated for a 2008 National Book Award for her historical novel, "Chains." The Revolutionary War is the setting for the book and follows the story of Isabel, a 13-year-old slave, as she fights for freedom. The book was one of 274 submitted in the Young People's Literature category. Laurie was also nominated for this award in 1999 for "Speak" and since then her novels now include "Fever 1793", "Catalyst", "Prom", and "Twisted." She also has written several children's picture books, including "Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving" and "Independent Dames: The Women and Girls of the American Revolution". Laurie is now on a "Chains" book tour traveling across the nation.

Cynthia L. Ackerman '82 after 24 years working at a local advertising firm, recently became a realtor with EXIT EZ Realty, specializing in the Fairmount/Camillus/West End of Syracuse, NY. She has lived in the Fairmount / Camillus area for the past 23 years, and she has three sons ranging in age from 14 to 21. Her oldest son, Zachary, is currently attending Onondaga while serving as a National Air Guardsman.

Cheryl E. McConoughey-Brown '82 earned bachelor's and master's degrees from SUNY Oswego and is currently a technology education teacher in the Liverpool Central School District in Liverpool, NY. After graduating from Onondaga, she was employed as an electronics technician at Syracuse Research Corporation and subsequently as an electrical designer at Niagara Mohawk. After graduating from Oswego, she became an electronics/computer teacher at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES in Auburn, NY. She has been teaching at Liverpool High School since 2000.

Robert L. Bartle '83 earned a bachelor's degree in pulmonary science from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse and is currently working as a project manager in research and development for GlaxoSmithKline. He resides in Cary, NC.

John V. Kilpatrick '85 is employed by the Syracuse Fire Department and was recently promoted to the rank of captain.

Margaret A. O'Brien '85 was honored as an American Red Cross Real Hero at the organization's annual Heroes breakfast held in December at the OnCenter in Syracuse. Margaret and her identical twin sister Mary each received the Blood Donor Award in recognition of donating their blood on a regular basis for nearly 35 years. Between them, "Peg" and Mary have donated 41 gallons of blood. She works for the City of Syracuse and is a former member of the OCC Institutional Advancement Office.

Michael E. Haines '86 was named senior art director for the ABC Creative Group in Syracuse, where he is responsible for managing their design process.

Luana H. Impellizzeri '86 is retired after working as supervisor for dining services at Syracuse University.

Deraux L. Branch '88 was one of thirteen black business leaders recognized as 2009 Spirit of Entrepreneurship honorees in a ceremony at the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce in February. Deraux is the owner of Branch's Driving School, Inc., which has been in operation for 46 years and has served more than 350,000 customers.

William F. Stanzak '88 recently joined the staff at Ashley McGraw Architects P.C. in Syracuse, NY where he is an architectural designer.

Glen D. Chandler '89 is employed by the Syracuse Fire Department and was recently promoted to the rank of captain.

Annual OCC Foundation Scholarship Reception and 2009 Alumni Faces

The annual OCC Foundation Scholarship Reception was held May 5 in the Gordon Student Center Great Room. The event was a celebration of the giving spirit of the community and the achievements of our alumni, while also recognizing the most recent recipients of OCC Foundation scholarships and awards.

As is tradition, the new inductees of the Alumni Faces Program were presented. This program was initiated in 2006 to provide a unique way for Onondaga to publicly recognize the accomplishments of OCC alumni, to serve as proof of the unlimited success all may achieve with an Onondaga education, and to ultimately inspire current and future students. An attractive display features these notable alumni in the Gordon Student Center.

Congratulations to the five honorees for 2009:

Helen B. Q. Anderson '72, Humanities Community and College Advocate

After raising three children, Helen Anderson came to Onondaga Community College to pursue a Humanities degree and earned high honors. She was the first graduate from the new Onondaga Hill campus. After Onondaga, she earned a B.A. and M.S.W. from Syracuse University, graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Mrs. Anderson was a deeply committed community advocate and volunteer for numerous organizations. In her heart, she felt her greatest personal achievement was as a member of the Onondaga Board of Trustees for 23 years, serving many years as Chair and playing a pivotal role in the College's expansion and growth. The Onondaga Community College family is extremely grateful for Mrs. Anderson's service and leadership. Helen Anderson passed away on January 19, 2009.



Michael J. Ancillotti '82, Graphic Arts Advertising Executive

After earning his degree at Onondaga, Michael Ancillotti pursued his dream of a career in advertising and marketing by continuing his education at Syracuse University, earning a B.F.A. from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Mr. Ancillotti's talents and motivation led him to build a successful 25-year career, including more than 20 years with one of Syracuse's premier agencies, Latorra, Paul & McCann. As an agency Principal and Executive Vice President of Account Services for LP&M, Mr. Ancillotti's expertise in a variety of industries and markets has resulted in multiple awards for regional, national and international campaigns. His artistic vision and solid management skills have inspired a most successful career.



Lucille D. Browning '84, Business Administration International Community Ambassador

When a United States Air Force assignment brought her husband and family to Syracuse, Lucille Browning quickly decided to begin studies at Onondaga Community College. Her associate's degree in business and a master's degree from Syracuse University opened the door to the International Center of Syracuse where she served as Executive Director for more than seven years. Ms. Browning represented Central New York and our nation in hosting international visitors and dignitaries and promoting citizen diplomacy. Ms. Browning brought students from many foreign countries to study at Onondaga Community College as part of the Freedom Support Act Undergraduate program. Receiving numerous professional awards for her outstanding leadership, Lucille Browning has showcased the friendly people and outstanding quality of life in Central New York to the world.



Daryll C. Dykes, M.D., Ph.D. '84 Mathematics and Science Spine Surgeon

A top spine surgeon at Twin Cities Spine Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dr. Daryll Dykes acknowledges his supportive family, friends, and teachers for their invaluable contributions while both he and his wife – also a top surgical specialist – raised their family and pursued their educational dreams. After serving in the United States Marine Corps, Dr. Dykes attended Onondaga and proudly lists his associate's degree with high honors at the top of his impressive vitae. He credits the College with inspiring him to achieve his life's goal in medicine. Dr. Dykes went on to earn bachelor's, medical, and doctoral degrees in Syracuse before pursuing several post-graduate fellowships in Minnesota. He has authored numerous professional publications, is a prominent member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, and has dedicated his life's work to patient care, education, mentoring and biomedical research.



Hon. Joseph E. Fahey '69, General Studies County Court Judge

First admitted to the New York State Bar in 1976, Judge Joseph Fahey began his legal career as a senior staff attorney at the Hiscock Legal Aid Society, and went on to private practice as a partner in the Wiles and Fahey Law Firm in Syracuse. While pursuing his passion for law as a practicing attorney and inspired by his love of politics, Judge Fahey was elected a Commissioner of the Syracuse Board of Education in 1985 and selected Board President. His expertise in criminal law and his desire to serve in a judicial post led to his election in 1996 as a County Court Judge by the citizens of Onondaga County for a ten year term and re-election to that post in 2006.





SOURCE: COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Your Chance To Make History by Barbara Rivette, Historian

Personal, impactful memories of OCC can become part of the College's 50th anniversary that will be celebrated in 2011 and 2012. Students always have a unique perspective that is so important and will be represented in Onondaga Community College's history. Your recollections will provide an insight into the teaching and learning that has made and continues to make Onondaga such a special place.

The College hopes to collect not only memories, but photos and memorabilia as well that will enhance the material that the College already has archived in Coulter Library.

The College's ambitious anniversary effort was launched seven years ago by President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. Initially, trustees, faculty, retired faculty and staff were interviewed about their Onondaga experiences. Personal stories were shared as part of the College's first days in downtown Syracuse at Midtown Plaza, while others recalled their days during the move to the Onondaga Hill campus.

The entire "history" project is being overseen by a committee of faculty, retired faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community which meets regularly.

Barbara S. Rivette, local historian and Onondaga County resident during all of Onondaga Community College's history, is now researching and writing about the College's first 50 years, guided by the committee's outline. In addition to using material found in the archives

and photograph files, she has conducted additional interviews with county officials, College trustees, faculty, staff and alumni to lend perspective to the narrative. Concluding the history will be 'a look ahead' as Onondaga enters its second half century.

"I met my wife in the OCC cafeteria."

Don't miss your opportunity to become part of history. Although 2011 seems far

away, Onondaga Community College needs to hear about your recollections TODAY so they can become part of this significant anniversary celebration. Please e-mail Anita Murphy, alumni coordinator at murphy@sunyocc.edu or call (315) 498-6058. You can also share your recollections and stories online at www.sunyocc.edu. Click on the 'Alumni' link at the bottom of the page.

"I never would have gone to law school without OCC!"



SOURCE: COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Message From Foundation Chair Allen J. Naples



I would like to extend my thanks to all who have made generous gifts to Onondaga Community College. Your support makes a college education possible for many who otherwise would not have the opportunity.

The *Reach Beyond* campaign is all about local investment with a local return, and leveraging the power of the community to support our common interests. We continue to achieve new milestones on the way to the campaign's \$6 million goal, with gifts and pledges nearing the next milestone of \$5 million. With SRC's historic \$1 million gift, we surpassed the \$3.5 million mark for the Presidential Scholars Program, the centerpiece of the campaign. I am pleased that the program has attracted the attention of so many donors, as it truly represents an investment in the future of Central New York.

I would also like to thank members of the Foundation Board of Directors and the College Board of Trustees, who continue to be engaged in helping us forge new partnerships. The circle of campaign volunteers continues to widen, and with so many leaders involved, we're looking forward to continued success. Thank you all for your tireless support on behalf of Onondaga Community College and its students.

Sincerely,

Allen J. Naples, Foundation Chair

Alumni NewsNotes

Brian P. Cooney '89 has had a very successful radio career in several radio markets and now lives in New York City where he does voice-over work for movie trailers, network television spots and radio imaging spots for stations all across the country. Check out www.briancooney.net for his work, or watch the OCC *Reach Beyond* Campaign video at www.sunyocc.edu to hear Brian in action.

Patricia McAfee '89 is the founder of Onondaga Stroke Survivors, a group that shares their experiences over lunch at different restaurants in the Syracuse area.

Tracey M. Schumacher '90 is a licensed real estate salesperson and a member of the team at RE/MAX Realty Plus in Clay, NY where she is a multi-million dollar producer.

Walter M. Pendock '91 earned a bachelor's degree from Greensboro College and is president of Art World Digital, Inc., East Syracuse, NY.

James S. Alvarez '93 was honored by the American Red Cross at their Real Heroes Breakfast held in December. James received the Good Neighbor Award along with three others deemed as heroes for risking their lives to save others during an apartment building fire in Camillus, NY. James is an officer with the Camillus Police Department.

David H. Fulkerson '93 was recently hired as a videographer, editor and director of photography at WCNY Television in Syracuse, NY. He previously worked as a photojournalist for WSTM NBC3 in Syracuse.

Gina Potenza '94 is director of information systems at Laboratory Alliance of Central New York and was recently appointed as a member of a subcommittee of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute.

Douglas J. Beachel '95 was recently hired by JGB Properties LLC as a project manager where he manages the development of several residential parcels of land in the Syracuse and Cooperstown areas. Doug has ten years experience in the real-estate and entitlement development fields. Prior to becoming a part of JGB, he worked as a land manager at Eldan Homes, Inc., Syracuse, NY and Ryan Homes, Inc. in Rochester.

Christopher M. Grosso '94 and his wife are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Leah Victoria. After living in England for a while, Christopher returned to New York state and worked for a few production companies. He recently started his own video production company, Take Two Visual Media, located in Brewerton, NY. To learn more visit: www.take2vm.com.

Lisa A. Jensen '94 retired as a nuclear plant operator for the Constellation Energy Group where she worked at the Nine Mile Point facility in Oswego, NY. Prior to that, she worked locally for National Grid. Lisa says she's enjoying her retirement and enjoys spending time with her family which includes 20 grandchildren.

David J. Wicker '94 was named account executive with Exhibits And More of Liverpool, NY. Previously, he was employed by ShoreMaster Inc.

Syeisha M. Byrd '01 was a member of the Syracuse Boys and Girls Club since the age of five and was named Unit Director of their Central Village in November, 2008. During that year she also received the 2008 Professional Youth Worker of the Year Award from the Onondaga County Department of Aging and Youth. She was featured in an article in the 'Caught Doing Something Good' section of the March/April 2009 issue of Central New York Magazine.

Nicholas A. Fruscello '01 owns his own mobile communications company, "Mozeo," and was recently selected as a "Greater Syracuse 40 under 40" recipient. This award recognizes him for his accomplishments in business and involvement in the community.

Lynn M. Leckie '02 works as a campus mentor for the Access Program at Onondaga Community Living, Inc., an agency founded in 1987 that provides services to adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities within the Syracuse area and nearby communities.

Christina M. Buza '04 is the branch manager of the Syracuse Employee Federal Credit Union on the Syracuse University campus.

Eric M. Taylor '04 is employed by C&S Companies of Syracuse, NY where he is a LEED-accredited professional engineer and a member of the company's facilities group.

Yolanda Johnson '06 was one of 13 black business leaders recognized as 2009 Spirit of Entrepreneurship honorees in a ceremony at the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce in February. Yolanda is owner of Hot Cocoa's Beauty Supply which has two locations and 12 employees. She is currently working on opening a third site.

Tania F. Aouad '06 is currently working at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore on the Onondaga campus where she is taking part in their bestseller program which gives her experience in running a business. She is a graduate of Le Moyne College where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and criminology.

Cassidy L. Alexander '08 has been studying music at Nashville's prestigious Belmont University. After a performance of Cassidy singing her song "Down by the Bonfire" was sent to Country Music Television (CMT) by a friend, she went all the way to the eighth round of CMT's online Music Madness competition.

Daniel P. Miller '08 is currently working with a teen self-injury group under the auspices of a local counselor and volunteers with a related suicide hotline for teens. He is looking forward to going back to school at SUNY Brockport in late 2009.

Judith A. Yap '08 is pursuing a bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy at SUNY Upstate Medical University and is still supporting Onondaga, volunteering as a trainer for the OCC Student Ambassador program.



Onondaga is on
Twitter and Facebook

You can now follow Onondaga Community College on Twitter. Just go to www.twitter.com/OnondagaCC to find out about upcoming news and events.



Become a fan of Onondaga on Facebook as well. Just log onto www.facebook.com and search Onondaga Community College.

The Home of Champions

Women's Lacrosse

The Onondaga women's lacrosse team finished their historic run by defeating Monroe Community College, 9-7, to capture the 2009 NJCAA National Championship in the program's first season of existence. In beating Monroe the Lazars also avenged their only loss of the season, in the Region III finals a week earlier. Lauren Welch was named 1st Team NJCAA All-American at attack and was also named the Region III Player of the Year. Midfielders Amanda Cizenski and Emily Pierson were also named 1st Team All-Americans. Welch, Cizenski, and Pierson were also 1st Team All-Region selections, and were joined by midfielder Elizabeth Manipole. Defenders Jamie Handley and Gabrielle Dewey and forward Lyndsay Malecki were named to the All-Region 2nd Team.



From left to right: Assistant Coach Erin Hopkins, Head Coach Amy Spin, Assistant Coach Stephanie Donegan and Assistant Coach Donald Patchett

Men's Lacrosse

Onondaga's men's lacrosse team began their season ranked No. 1 in the country with big wins against colleges Essex Community College (25-5) in Baltimore, Md., and Nassau Community College (10-9) from Long Island. A sweet victory, given that Nassau is the team that beat Onondaga in last season's national championship.

Seven 2009 seniors earned scholarships to play at a four-year school, said Coach Chuck Wilbur. Those students include Shaun Church (New York Tech); Ed Prevost (North Carolina); Vinnie Alexander (Le Moyne College); Desi Gonzalez (Limestone College); John Gabriel (New England College); Jon Fiorillo (Manhattan College) and Jeremy Thompson (Syracuse University).

Men's Basketball

The Onondaga men's basketball season finished with the National Junior College Athletic Association Region III Division III Quarter-Finals. The team played a great game leading into overtime, but ultimately lost to Hudson Valley Community College.

Under head coach Dave Pasiak, Onondaga reached post-season play for the ninth consecutive year. The team also qualified for regional play for the eighth consecutive season, and is the only school in the Mid-State Athletic Conference, and one of just three in its region, to accomplish these feats.



2009 NJCAA Men's Lacrosse National Champions.

Women's Basketball

This was a tremendous year for the Onondaga women's basketball team, Coach Mike Wheeler boasted. "We finished with a school best 29-7," he said.

While the team won the school's first Region III Division III Championship, and the regular season Midstate Athletic Conference Title, it also went to the team's first final four.

Ultimately, the Onondaga team was eliminated, but not without a fight. In the consolation game, players faced defending national champ Monroe Community College, the No. 2 ranked team in the country. "Onondaga had three chances to win the game in regulation but the ball wouldn't drop," Wheeler said, adding the team ended up losing in overtime 83-79.

On a good note, four of its five starters will be back next year, along with several talented freshmen. "The team is focused and determined to get back to the final four again next year," Wheeler said.



2008-09 NJCAA Region III Division III Women's Basketball Champions.

Men's Tennis

The 2009 men's tennis team captured their third consecutive NJCAA Region III Division III championship by taking first place in 8 of 9 flights in the regional tournament. As a result, the Lazars advanced to the NJCAA Division III National Championships in Texas, where they finished in 3rd place.



Men's tennis team head coach John LaRose recently celebrated his 400th career win!

Women's Tennis

The spring season ended on a high note with seven wins and two losses. "We finished third place in Region III," Coach Doug Annable said. "Our biggest victory of the season was defeating Broome Community College, the Region III champions, 5-4, the second time we played them this year."

Looking ahead, the team is planning to compete in the nationals tournament this fall. "Our upcoming season is shaping up to be yet another good one," Annable said. "We are looking forward to competing for the Region III Championship and heading to Nationals in Tucson, Ariz."



Cicero-North Syracuse High School Hall of Fame Inducts Coach Chuck Wilbur

- 1995 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School: three-year member of the Northstar varsity lacrosse team; served as captain and led his team to the Section III championship game; one of the top 10 scorers in school history.



- Attended Herkimer Community College: two-time All American attackman; named Region III Player of the Year.
- Attended Hobart College: named Most Valuable Player.
- Head Coach at Onondaga Community College: three NJCAA national championships in 2006, 2007 and 2009; turned out 39 Academic All-Americans.

Workforce Development

continued from page 3

director of CNY Works. "Onondaga offers a wealth of opportunities in response to this need through its role with secondary, career, technical and higher education."

Beginning this fall, Workforce Development will offer 'for-credit' college courses through Onondaga's own Computer Studies faculty and CNY Works. This means that upon completion, the student will have completed viable coursework which can be applied to many degree programs, if they so choose. Otherwise, if they choose not to pursue a degree immediately, the computer coursework will certainly benefit anyone entering the workforce.

JOBSplus

JOBSplus at Onondaga offers coursework and counseling to help people who have been laid off and are currently on public assistance get jobs and more importantly, keep them. In partnership with the Onondaga County Department of Social Services, this program is among the premier programs of its kind anywhere in the country.

Each person is assigned a job coach who helps them move along the path toward employment, which is the ultimate goal of JOBSplus. They offer skill-building workshops, resume preparation and other workplace-specific activities.

According to director Janice Mayne, among the big six counties in New York state (Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Monroe, Erie and Onondaga), JOBSplus is a leader in entered employment as a percentage of their total case load.

"Our mission is to make everything in the public assistance system about employment," said Mayne. "It validates that we are staying true to our mission."

Anyone applying for public assistance in the county is mandated to participate in JOBSplus. Depending on an individual's circumstances, JOBSplus counselors conduct job search workshops and structured job searches. For those who don't hold a high school diploma, General Education Development, or GED, -prep classes are offered. There are also many opportunities for people to participate in unpaid work experiences in the county and at local not-for-profits.

"Why would we ever deny someone the opportunity to work? It's our job to help people access the job market and ultimately enjoy self-sufficiency."

– Janice Mayne, director of JOBSplus

"JOBSplus is a unique program that integrates skills development with college-level work to help people move successfully into the job market," said James Sunser, associate vice president of continuing and extended learning. "There's really no other program like JOBSplus that ties social services with a community college."

Mayne says one of the toughest challenges her team faces is helping people overcome obstacles that may hold them back. Things like finding suitable child care or getting needed treatment for those in recovery. "Our job is to help people remove or overcome the obstacles they face and help them discover that they can succeed in the workforce and ultimately become economically independent."

continued on next page

Onondaga Receives \$100,000 Grant For Veterans

Onondaga Community College is one of 20 institutions nationwide to receive a Success for Veterans Award Grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Wal-Mart Foundation. The College was chosen from the nearly 250 campuses that applied for the grant program.

Onondaga plans to use the grant to enhance and expand academic and social services and resources for veterans and their families.

The grant was awarded to colleges that operate model programs advancing access and success in higher education for veterans and their families, according to a joint press release from ACE and the Wal-Mart Foundation.

“Onondaga is committed to meeting the needs of veterans and we recognize the significant contribution that veterans and military personnel make in choosing to

serve our nation, as well as the valuable professional and life experiences they bring to the classroom that enhance learning for all students,” said Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. “Therefore, it’s absolutely essential that we continue to improve the capacity of educational institutions – and in particular the

capacity of community colleges, which serve as a gateway to education for a growing number of veterans – to help veterans succeed.”

Onondaga Community College has one of the largest Veterans’ Affairs offices in New York state and has been serving veterans and their families for nearly four decades.

Among the efforts this grant will support include: the creation of online veteran-specific orientation programs; expansion of the existing on-campus Office of Veterans’ Affairs; the enhancement of prospective student outreach efforts; and increased capacity for counseling and psychological services. Paul Holzwarth, also a veteran, manages the Office of Veterans’ Affairs at Onondaga.



Paul Holzwarth, Veterans’ Affairs

“Onondaga’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs provides direct services to more than 400 student-veterans each year,” said Stephanie Reynolds, associate vice president of student services at Onondaga. “This grant will enhance and expand our ability to meet the needs of our current student-veterans, prepare for the growing number of veterans expected to enroll in the coming months, and assist them with the transition from military life to civilian life as they work toward achieving their educational goals.”

Workforce Development

continued from page 9

Working With Local Employers

The largest piece of the Workforce Development puzzle is the partnerships established with local employers. By creating customized training programs, Onondaga is meeting the needs of local businesses that are choosing to invest in their existing workforce through on-the-job training and retraining.

One such partnership was with the Onondaga County Board of Elections in 2008. The College provided specific training on high-tech poll machines for hundreds of county poll workers – including many Onondaga students – in preparation for the November election. In total, they taught 103 class sessions resulting in 2,400 poll workers trained and 880 people trained specifically on the new voting machines.

Another partnership the College has is with the Anheuser-Busch plant in Lysander, NY. With a continued focus on process improvement, the company sought out Onondaga to administer predetermined training courses for a number of their employees. “This investment of training represents the confidence we have in this plant,” said general manager of Anheuser-Busch’s Baldwinsville brewery Steve McCormick. “We’ve chosen to invest in our existing workforce with the same eye on results that we’ve always had as we advance into a higher-technology environment.”

Centro, the bus transit service within Onondaga and surrounding counties, has also benefited from a partnership with Workforce Development. When Centro began to move away from diesel fuel and toward alternative fuel vehicles for their fleet, they turned to Onondaga to create a customized computer training program designed specifically for Centro’s transit mechanics.

Onondaga provides customized training programs for many local organizations including:

- Centro
- Anheuser-Busch
- Destiny USA
- Verizon
- National Grid
- Loretto
- Advantage Travel
- Sensis
- Onondaga County Board of Elections



From left to right: Dr. Sydow, instructor John Ott, graduate Paul Kunzelman, graduate Carl Graf, graduate Ken O’Mara and general manager of Anheuser-Busch’s Baldwinsville brewery Steve McCormick.

According to Jim Mahan, assistant fleet manager at Centro, nearly half of Centro’s current employees will retire over the next 10 to fifteen years, which means there’s a great need for training and retraining of their workforce.

“There’s really no such thing as a ‘transit mechanic’ in the same way there is an ‘auto mechanic,’” says Mahan. “Transit mechanics have to be received specific training on the computer to perform diagnostics. The quality of Onondaga’s instruction more than met our needs.”

While many employers will pay for their employees to get retraining, there are many others, including Centro, who turn to outside sources for funding assistance. These sources include the Central New York Workforce Development Institute.

“We are proud to partner with Onondaga Community College – a first class institution,” said Mary Ellen Mangino, regional director of Central New York Workforce Development Institute. “From ‘lean’ techniques to ‘green’ technologies, Onondaga delivers cutting-edge training and education to the CNY Workforce.”

From January of 2008 through January of 2009, Workforce Development taught more than 380 classes and served nearly 5,400 people in the

Central New York community. And their business is only growing as an increasing number of workers and employers realize that in an unstable economic climate, education is still a wise investment.

Workforce Development has multiple projects in place including a partnership with Rochester Institute of Technology to offer Lean Six Sigma training (a highly popular business improvement methodology) on campus. The College is also working with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) to offer training in photovoltaics in response to the growing “green economy.”

“The customized training options are flexible and designed to meet the needs of the community,” said Sunser. “It’s more than just saying ‘here’s what we have,’ but rather – what do you need? And how can we help?”

To learn more, contact Workforce Development at (315) 498-7243.

High-Tech and Hot Careers: Making the Connection with Local Employers

At Onondaga's Career and Applied Learning Center (CAL Center), both students and alumni can obtain internships, view the "CALink" database of local job opportunities, or participate in volunteering and service-learning opportunities to expand their learning outside the classroom. The CAL Center also offers free resume-writing workshops, interview practice sessions, job fairs, and panel discussions with local employers.



Presenters at the panel discussion on high-tech careers included from left to right: Lindsey Ahern, Sensis Corp.; Peggy Dudarchik, Sensis Corp.; Francine Emmi, Seneca Data; Jim Kelly, National Grid; Ronald Yencha, Inficon; and Mike Vinciguerra, Inficon.

Recently, two very popular panel discussions were held on campus for students and alumni. The first focused on the growing high-tech career industry. The second, focused on the topic of emerging careers in environmental and green technology.

There, students learned from company representatives about starting salaries, job growth, and the required qualifications.

"Panel discussions and the job fairs give our students and faculty the latest information on companies in Central New York that are growing and that have job opportunities for our graduates," said Dianne Fancher, director of the CAL Center.

These companies are also describing career paths for students. For example, many companies offer tuition reimbursement for people who want to complete a four-year degree. This is key to planning future career goals, says Fancher. If a student can see that they can earn a two-year degree, get a job and then pursue a four-year degree with partial or sometimes even full tuition reimbursement from their employer, that's a real plus.

"OCC continues to provide INFICON with highly educated, technical candidates that have made significant contributions to both technical and management growth of our corporation"

- Michael A. Vinciguerra, director of human resources at Inficon

Among the many well-known local employers in attendance were:

- King and King Architects
- C&S Companies
- O'Brien and Gere
- National Grid
- Sensis Corporation
- OP-Tech Environmental Services
- Inficon
- Seneca Data

SRC Gift

continued from front page

Dr. Sydow, SRC President Bob Roberts, and Campaign Co-Chair Allen Naples also announced that the College's new arena, part of the Onondaga Arena and Sports Complex to be completed in late 2011, will be named "SRC Arena." The arena will feature flexible seating for up to 10,000 people and will serve as the location for major college and community events, including athletics, the arts, ceremonies and other local and regional opportunities.

SRC President Bob Roberts said, "SRC and SRCtec are taking a strong stand in our philanthropic efforts related to science and technology education. We firmly support that a better future for the company and the community will be achieved by encouraging youth to study in these disciplines. The goal is to educate a new workforce that will have a positive economic impact and provide a continued workforce to Central New York. I hope our gesture inspires others to join this noble effort. We're also very humbled that

Artists rendering of proposed SRC Arena.



the SRC name will forever be associated with stimulating education through the SRC scholarship." Roberts also serves as co-chair of the *Reach Beyond* campaign with Allen Naples, chairman of the OCC Foundation Board and President of M&T Bank.

"The commitment of Bob Roberts, SRC and SRCtec has been tremendous. These organizations are leading the way through their support of higher education and the pivotal importance of all students to earn a college degree. I commend the entire SRC team for their leadership, and challenge other area businesses to follow SRC's outstanding example," said Naples.

Thanks for Answering the Call

*"Hello, this is Alissa from
Onondaga Community College..."*

More than 4,000 Onondaga graduates received a friendly call this semester from an impressive group of *Fund for OCC* student Phonathon callers including Alissa Cooney, a first year Criminal Justice student. As a result, a record number of those reached by phone responded with a generous gift to support their alma mater. Dollars raised through the Annual Fund provide valuable dollars to help the College meet some of the most urgent and pressing needs. Alissa and her fellow Phonathon callers look forward to reaching YOU and other graduates in the fall, and they're anticipating to break even more records! Thank you Onondaga alumni for your support and for "answering the call"!

Retirements

January – May 2009

Nancy Barnett, Information Technology
 Karen Bender, President's Office
 Charles Carnrite, Financial Services
 James Drake, Food Service/Hotel Management
 Leonard Foster, Buildings
 Kathleen LaClair, Human Resources
 Diane Lawrence, Management Services
 Nancy Licata, Electronic Media Communications
 Howard Leo, Chemistry/Physical Science
 Susan Mitchell, Biology
 David Muir, Social Science
 Theresea (Terri) O'Hare, Food Service/
 Hotel Management

Fall 2008

Theresa Ancona, Student Central
 Kathie Briggs, Disability Services Office
 Marjorie Johnson, JOBSplus!
 Alamgir Kabir, Custodial
 Linda McNamara, Library
 Margaret Schmidt, Student Central
 Sharlyn White, Buildings
 Janice Woodford, Student Central

Retirees: Save the Date

Onondaga Community College
Annual Retiree Luncheon

Saturday, June 27

Formal invitation to be mailed soon

Celebrating National Volunteer Week



Twenty-one students and family members made up Team Onondaga at the March of Dimes Walk for Babies at Onondaga Lake Park on Sunday, April 6. Onondaga volunteers raised more than \$800 to support the March of Dimes in their efforts to ensure that all babies are born healthy.

National Volunteer Week (April 20-26) was a great success at Onondaga Community College. Students, faculty and staff participated in a full range of service projects on the campus and in the Syracuse community including:

- WCNY Annual Telephone Auction
- March of Dimes Walk for Babies
- Habitat for Humanity
- A food drive
- Operation Gratitude: Letters to Soldiers



Azhar Saied, James McConnell, and Jagdish Patel unloading a pallet of building supplies at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Warehouse.

In Memoriam

Faculty, Staff & Administrators:

Frances H. Baker
 Janice G. Gabriel
 Joseph E. Roesch, Ph.D.
 Frederick G. Schwartz
 James F. Spencer
 Joseph J. Zampini

Alumni:

Joseph C. Ascioti '67
 Scott L. Bartucca '93
 Linda M. Granzow '88
 Daniel J. Haryan '68
 Eunice J. Toomey Leahey '70
 Thomas V. Leshendok '65
 Mark A. Moriarty '74
 Linda Moser Preeman '94
 Gordon C. Quonce '08

Trustee, OCC Foundation Board Member and Alumna:

Helen B.Q. Anderson '72

OCC Foundation Board:

Stewart F. Hancock, III
 John B. Henry, M.D.

Attention Alumni 25% OFF

for alumni purchases of giftware and apparel made between June 21 and June 28 at the Barnes & Noble campus bookstore in the Gordon Student Center. Bring this "coupon" when making your purchase.


Online orders accepted:

onondagacc.bncollege.com

Phone: (315) 498-2246

Continuum is published for Onondaga supporters, friends, alumni and the Central New York community.

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2009 JAZZ FEST Syracuse



Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27

For a complete listing of all the Jazz Fest performances go to: SUNYOCC.EDU