

# SUNY SCHENECTADY

Annual Report | 2020



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Photo by Stan Horaczek*

“When you run alone, you run fast.  
When you run together, you run far.”

—Zambian proverb

I often reflect upon and take strength from the proverbs that are sewn into the fabric of Zambia, my home country. This year I have relied upon the wisdom of those who came before me more so than ever before.

We have all turned to the familiar for a sense of comfort amid a pandemic that so quickly introduced the unfamiliar. The bonds we share with beloved family members and cherished friends reassure us that we are not alone. We remind our students that although we can't all be on campus, we join together in our collective resolve to meet the unimaginable challenges we are facing. We are committed to helping them through this in any way that we can.

I have been profoundly impressed by our students and the resilience, adaptability, strength, determination, and grit they have shown in the face of this life-changing experience. They all have dreams and goals for the future, and they are not letting anything stand in their way. I have been equally impressed by our faculty and staff and their ingenuity, talent, dedication, compassion, and fortitude. It has been humbling to witness the caring and compassion they have shown for the well-being of their students, and the unending support they give to one another and to the institution as a whole.

We will persevere. We thank you, our vision supporters, for your generosity and support, as we do our very best to weather the storm and prepare for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steady H. Moono'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial 'S' and 'M'.

Steady H. Moono  
President

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*Dr. Syeda Munaim, Professor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, with students during an Anatomy and Physiology I Lab. Read more about the College's response to the COVID 19 pandemic, starting on page 4.*

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## Best of the Best! SUNY Schenectady Named Best Local College

SUNY Schenectady has been named BEST LOCAL COLLEGE in the *Daily Gazette's* Official 2020 People's Choice Awards: Best of the Best based on voting by readers of the *Daily Gazette*. SUNY Schenectady has been nominated before in this category and this year was ranked #1! Online voting took place through mid-September 2020 and the *Daily Gazette* published all of the winners in a special edition in October 2020. SUNY Schenectady is a very special place and this recognition demonstrates the positive and profound impact our faculty and staff make on the lives of students and in the local community.

*On the cover: Antoine Smith, Culinary Arts major, packs a delicious meal for a Curbside Casola customer.*



# COVID-19 Brings Changes and Challenges to Campus Community

## SPRING 2020

### Moving to Virtual Instruction

In March 2020, after an extended Spring Break, the College moved all classes to virtual learning formats following Gov. Andrew Cuomo's New York State on PAUSE executive order a week earlier. Some offices on campus remained open, but in compliance with New York state's directive, the College limited staff on campus. Additionally, the College initiated limited entry points to its buildings and continued to take guidance from SUNY Administration, state leaders, federal agencies, and health officials for the well-being of the campus community.

### Keeping the Lines of Communication Open

With students and faculty off campus, the College kept members of the College community informed through:

- a COVID-19 web page with notifications and Student Resources
- frequent video addresses by Dr. Steady Moono, College President



- social media posts with updates, resources, and videos with words of encouragement from faculty and staff for students as they progressed through the Spring 2020 semester



Left: Evelyn Maclutsky, Student Success Coach, reminds students that Success Coaches are here for them.

- frequent emails and texts

## PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

### LAPTOP LOANS

Student Affairs established a Laptop Loan program for students. Since March 2020, more than 280 students have been given laptops to assist them as they learn remotely.

### FOOD PANTRY

Since the pandemic began, as food insecurity has become even more



heightened, the College's Food Pantry has remained open. The Pantry adheres to safety measures. When visitors come to the Pantry, they see a caring and friendly face: Jessica Beauchemin, a Nutrition major, and Student Worker, who volunteers alongside faculty and staff. (In this photo, Jessica is the only volunteer in the pantry, stocking shelves before it opens.)

### STUDENT SUCCESS COACHES

Student Success Coaches check in with students regularly to see how they're doing and connect them with resources.

### LIBRARY

Librarians are available to connect with students virtually to help them with research projects.

### CHAT

The College instituted a new chat feature on every page of the website. Faculty and staff answer questions in real time.

### TECH SUPPORT

Through a help line and online support, the College's Information Technology Division is there for students to guide them through virtual learning.

## Adapting to The Unexpected: Laboratory Learning At Home

When the College transitioned to virtual online learning on March 30, 2020, students and professors alike began to navigate how all of the topics that would normally be covered in hands-on labs and lessons would be covered virtually. With a lot of ingenuity, technological savvy, and determination, they made it work. Faculty continued with innovative teaching techniques like these during Fall 2020.



Dr. Karen Hosmer



Dr. Richard Simons



Mark Evans



Michael Stamets

### Dr. Karen Hosmer in her home music studio.

For her oboe lessons, Dr. Karen Hosmer, Professor in the School of Music, listened and watched her students perform their music in WebEx lessons. Hand position, dynamics, phrasing, and breathing were all discussed and improved.

### Dr. Richard Simons on the bike path before creating a video for his Ecology students.

Ordinarily, in the College's Biology Labs, Dr. Richard Simons, Associate Professor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, would have his Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) students observe skeletons and muscle models, perform dissections, and generate their own EMG (electromyography) on Iworx, recording muscle activity. Ecology students learn how to use various scientific instruments such as soil meters and pH meters to sample water and soil quality. He modified all of that for virtual learning by creating videos for students to follow.

### Assistant Professor Mark Evans in his home music studio.

Students in the Performance Concentration class taught by Assistant Professor Mark Evans used Zoom to connect with him. Students set their laptop or phone in such a way that he could see their hands at the keyboard, making sure that good hand position and finger techniques were being used.

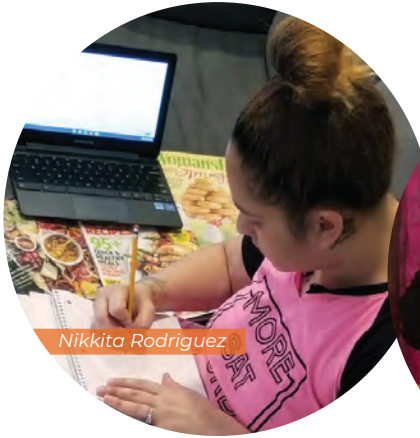
### Chef Michael Stamets in his home kitchen.

In Chef Michael Stamets's Classical Cuisine II Lab, his students watched videos to learn about the food and culture of a particular region. He also did live demonstrations of dishes like Bucatini all'Amatriciana, the pasta dish from the Le Marche region which was used as a sign of togetherness after an earthquake hit the region in 2016.

# COVID-19

## Student Perspectives

Students shared their insights during the Spring 2020 semester, conveying how they were feeling, what they were experiencing, and the support that was helping them adapt to the changes in their academic lives brought on by the pandemic.



Nikkita Rodriguez



Manny Hubbard



Hannah Daignault



Christian Corker

### Nikkita Rodriguez, Culinary Arts, President of the College's American Culinary Federation Junior Chapter

“It’s my final semester. Losing my job (as a Garde Manger chef when the restaurant closed down), taking online classes, taking care of a household and homeschooling two children four years apart is a challenge...Having amazing teachers who are always understanding and ready to help makes it easier. Blackboard collaborative helps us keep in touch in a time where we have to practice social distancing...No student left behind!”

### Manny Hubbard, Music Audio Technology, Member of Guitar Ensemble and Student Audio Technician

“It was a big surprise to shift to virtual learning, but I have been able to manage. I have had more time to write lyrics and music, draw, read books I’ve wanted to read, and build things I’ve wanted to build, including a box drum I never finished. I’ve been working on my music business (my band) online and through social media to gain a following.”

### Hannah Daignault, Nutrition, Student Trustee

“It’s been difficult to be distanced from my professors, classmates, and school activities, but remembering that our support system is still there is comforting. Connecting with my professors and classmates through Zoom and Blackboard has made this transition seamless. It helps us to feel normal again during this challenging time...The student support services we’ve relied on are still there: Upswing tutoring, online counseling, mentoring, the Food Pantry, and the faculty and staff!”

### Christian Corker, Liberal Arts, Point Guard – Men's Basketball Team

“Although a lot of face-to-face interactions with professors and other students have been lost, professors and administrators have been doing a great job making sure that we are successful. In between classes and homework, I have been working on things that don’t require me to be on a basketball court such as: ball handling, passing, watching film, and staying in shape. I have also found myself doing puzzles, reading more, and continuing to enjoy my family.”



## Helping the Community

SUNY Schenectady alumnus Lars Petersen (pictured) ('14, Nanoscale Materials Technology, '17, Alternative Energy Technology) utilized a 3-D printer in the Center for Science and Technology to create face shields for healthcare workers and for Science faculty and students to use in biology, chemistry, and biochemistry labs this fall.



So far, Lars has produced more than 500 face shields since early April 2020. The first 50 face shields he created were sent in April to a group of nurses working with elderly COVID-19 patients in New York City when the need for PPE there was the greatest. The next group of 167 shields were delivered locally to Saratoga Hospital through Saratoga 3-D Print Against COVID-19. Lars has partnered with the organization since April and the group has distributed other face shields to local hospitals and rehabilitation facilities in the area.

At the start of the pandemic, SUNY Schenectady, like many other institutions and organizations, had to cancel events on campus, including those offered by the award-winning Culinary Arts program. The College donated the perishable items that were set aside for spring banquets and events, and those from the Convenience Store, to the City Mission of Schenectady and YWCA of NorthEastern NY.



*Pictured are Dr. Steady Moono, College President, and Dr. David Brough, Dean of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, in one of the Culinary Arts Labs.*



The College had personal protection equipment (PPE) left over from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism and science laboratories after all in-person instruction and labs transitioned to online learning in March 2020. A total of 300 surgical masks, 40 Tyvek suits, and 100 boxes of gloves were delivered to Ellis Hospital.

"Donations such as this help to ensure the continued safety of our clinical care teams as they fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We are honored to serve our community and are thankful for partners like SUNY Schenectady."

Marcy Steiner, Vice President/Executive Director of The Foundation for Ellis Medicine.

*She is pictured with Dr. Steady Moono, College President, and Anthony Schwartz, the College's Director of Facilities.*

Also, Lynn Rozell, RN and Instructor for the Health Profession Opportunity Grants program through the Office of Workforce Development and Community, staffed a call center for patients who had tested positive for COVID-19.

## Assisting Students Through CARES Act

The College received just over \$1.1 million through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill. Students received assistance with emergency expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care as a result of a financial hardship due to the disruption of campus operations because of COVID-19.

## Creating a Necessary Dialogue

In May 2020, SUNY Schenectady brought together local leaders



through a live stream via Zoom during the *Virtual Business Roundtable Discussion About COVID-19*. Representatives from local businesses, nonprofit organizations, the College, and elected officials described the challenges their respective groups faced during New York State on PAUSE, how the pandemic has affected their customers, clients, students, and constituents, the actions they have taken during the crisis, and ways in which the community can come back stronger. More than 150 community members tuned in. The discussion was moderated by Megan Baker, President and CEO of Baker Public Relations.

# COVID-19

## FALL 2020

### Reimagining the Fall 2020 Semester

Dr. Steady Moono, College President, convened the Reimagine Fall Task Force to critically examine formats for restarting on-campus operations for the Fall 2020 semester and develop an exhaustive plan to present to SUNY, the College community, and the public. The Task Force consisted of College administrators, Division Deans, faculty, and staff. The group examined campus classrooms and labs to determine how to deliver instruction while adhering to social distancing and other safety measures. In fact, labs were measured, template diagrams of lab spaces created, and laboratory work stations marked off before students came to campus.

#### Teaching Courses and Labs Virtually and On Campus



Mark Evans, Assistant Professor in the School of Music, teaches Keyboard Techniques.

This fall, the College moved to a hybrid model of instruction with all lecture style classes still offered virtually and a limited number of labs held in-person, on campus within the School of Music, School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, and the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health. Labs consisted of six to eight students on a rotating schedule to allow for social distancing. Faculty continued to teach classes virtually utilizing online learning platforms and technology.

#### Cooking Up Something Delicious

For decades, the College's Casola Dining Room, operated by the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, has been an extremely popular dining spot in the Capital Region with students and faculty preparing and serving delicious cuisine during noontime and evening meals. The tradition was alive during the first half of the fall semester through "Casola Curbside," a new contactless takeout service featuring three-course meals and "Van Curler To Go," with specialty themed meals available on select Tuesdays for dinner and select Wednesdays for lunch. All of the cuisine was prepared by students and faculty in Classical Cuisine, Quantitative Foods, Dining Room Management, Banquet Management, Regional American Baking and Pastry, Commercial Baking I, and Garde Manger classes with proper social distancing, safety measures, and PPE in place. Faculty members completed ServSafe COVID specific certifications. Pane e Dolci (bakery) and the Boucherie (an artisanal charcuterie and specialty market) were also open.



Chef Courtney Withey, Assistant Professor in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, prepares a mouth-watering buttermilk fried chicken with sweet potato puree, country gravy, and hot sauce honey butter takeout meal.

#### Putting Safety First

In addition to requiring masks on campus, the College mapped out social distancing markers throughout campus buildings, including hallways, elevators, labs, classrooms, offices, and bathrooms. Disinfecting/cleaning regimens are in place. Those coming to campus complete health assessments upon entering buildings and there are only four defined building entry/exit points. The College began regular pool testing for students and employees.

The College partnered with Schenectady County Public Health Services to offer no-cost community COVID-19 testing to Schenectady County residents during October 2020. Residents were able to drive or walk up to the testing site in SUNY Schenectady's West Parking Lot.

#### Continuing to Serve Students

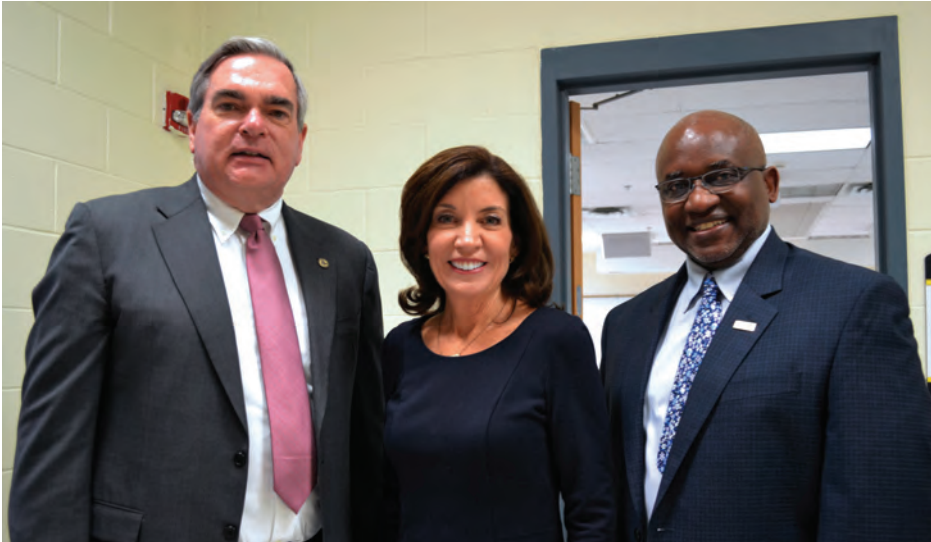


During the Fall semester, the College continued with virtual support services for

students, from mentoring and advising to IT support and tutoring. There were also limited face-to-face appointments. Students had access to the library, computers, printers, and Wi-Fi in Elston Hall six days a week. Laptop loans were also ongoing.



# PRESIDENTIAL MOMENTS



## Sharing the State of the State

Dr. Steady Moono, College President, flanked by Honorable Gary McCarthy '77, Mayor of the City of Schenectady, and Honorable Kathy Hochul, Lt. Gov. for New York State, who visited campus in January 2020 to share “New York State – Making Progress Happen,” a presentation of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s State of the State 2020.

## College Honored During Girls Inc. Event

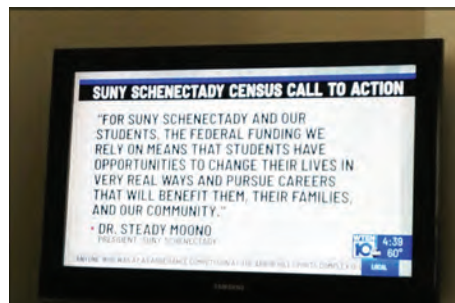


Dr. Moono spoke during Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region’s *Fuel Her Fire Virtual Event* in October 2020 as he accepted the “Fuel Her Fire Community Impact Award.” The College was honored for volunteer and internship programs where SUNY Schenectady students work directly with girls in after school

programs. During his video remarks, Dr. Moono highlighted how students in Professor Renee Adamany’s Interpersonal and Group Dynamics course visit Girls Inc. for their service learning projects, leading the girls in arts and crafts activities and educational lessons. He noted how students in the Human Services program complete their field work hours at Girls Inc. and how the Student Volunteer Organization organizes activities where they combine fun and learning.

## Issuing A Call to Action for the 2020 Census

In addition to students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College, Dr. Moono encouraged members of the local community to fill out the 2020 Census. His video address was shared on social media channels and his remarks were broadcast by local media outlets. Dr. Moono emphasized that the census count determines where billions of dollars in federal funding will be spent for schools, hospitals, and infrastructure projects for roads and construction, among other services.



## Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. King

Dr. Moono and Honorable Antonio Delgado, United States Congressman, during the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition’s 34th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in the Taylor Auditorium.



Photo credit: Marc Schultz, *The Daily Gazette*

# ACADEMICS

## Connecting with the Community

During the Spring 2020 semester, students in Professor Renee Adamany's SOC 127: Interpersonal and Group Dynamics course continued with their service learning projects, part of a SUNY initiative that connects students to the community.

One group collected canned goods and other items for the College's Food Pantry, and raised funds that were donated to the College's Foundation for the pantry. Other groups collected goods for Schenectady ARC and food/personal care items for the YWCA Northeastern New York.

During the Fall 2020 semester, several students were employed at local non-profit agencies and were the leaders of their groups. While working, these students implemented holiday parties, arts and crafts, and educational activities for clients. Others students in their groups assisted them by collecting needed items for these projects. For example, Bovanna Phillips (pictured), a Human Services major, works as an On-Call Counselor at Saint Anne's Institute in Albany, a non-secure detention center for girls and young women ages 12 to 21. In November 2020, Bovanna hosted a Harvest Pizza Party for some of the residents. Since visitors couldn't come to the facility due to the pandemic, the SUNY Schenectady students in her service learning group donated personal hygiene products or connected with local businesses for donations and helped prepare gift bags that were distributed at the party. They also wrote cards and messages of encouragement to those at Saint Anne's.



## Paralegal Program Approved

In March 2020, the American Bar Association (ABA) again approved the Paralegal degree program for the next seven years. Professor Sheila Foglietta, of the Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law, oversaw the yearlong process for this approval. This well-earned distinction means that the program provides a qualitatively verified curriculum and a positive annotation to a student's resume since many attorneys may prefer a graduate from an ABA approved program.

## TRIO Grant Renewed

The College's TRIO program was selected for renewal of funding from the United States Department of Education for \$1,676,555 for five years. This funding allows SUNY Schenectady to annually serve 175 first-generation, income-qualified students with support including tutoring, academic workshops, transfer counseling, and career guidance.



## CSTEP Grant Renewed

The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) was renewed for another five-year period (2020-2025) through a \$100,000 grant awarded by the New York State Education Department. CSTEP serves underrepresented students as they pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, health, or licensed professions. The program was first offered at the College in 2015.

*CSTEP faculty and students - Dr. Lorena Harris, Director of CSTEP; Darin Sukalingum; Michele-Lane Detouche; Nkeiru Ubadike; Brianna McLaren; Damond Terry; Eric Quinn; and Dr. Richard Simons, Associate Professor, Division of Math, Science, Technology, and Health.*



## Business Administration Major Studies Sales Alongside Local Professionals

During the beginning of the Spring 2020 semester, every week David Sanders, a Business Administration major, went to Sandler Training in Albany to absorb all he could about sales and leadership. He was in the same training program as sales professionals from throughout the Capital District, while earning college credits through the Management 215: Sales and Service course. Professor Matthew Farron developed the new partnership with Sandler Training. David plans on owning a car dealership and the Sandler training helped him write his business plan and employee handbook.



*David Sanders, Business Administration major, discusses his business plan with Professor Matt Farron, of the Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law.*

## Science Students Conduct Original Research



Do you know what a tardigrade is and how it acclimates to temperature? A group of students in Biology II can explain it all. During the spring semester, they conducted original research about tardigrades and presented their findings with their classmates and professors during *Virtual STEM 2020, May The Fourth Be With You*. Other topics that students in Biology 142, Nutrition 161, the College Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), and The Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) examined included acid rain/pond ecosystems, essential oils/bacterial growth, and biofilms/coffee.

James Fink, a Science major with a concentration in Biology (pictured), John Drazba, Biotechnology major, and Krishna Paul, Biotechnology major, studied tardigrades. James plans on studying Evolutionary Biology, earning his Ph.D., and teaching at the university level in the future.

## Strong Start to Finish

Beginning this Fall, the College used an updated placement process for mathematics that is now student-centered and based on a conversation with the student's advisor, a review of their GPA, and a mutual agreement about the best pathway for their math classes. This is part of the Strong Start to Finish grant, awarded to SUNY Schenectady in April 2019, through the Gates Foundation and SUNY, which focuses on improving the approach to developmental mathematics. A Math Committee has led the effort that allows students to enter their gateway mathematics course in their first semester.

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## New Course For First Year Students

Alicia Richardson and Dr. Babette Faehmel, Associate Professors in the Division of Liberal Arts, developed First Year Seminar: BIPOC, to provide students who identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) a supportive environment to learn, grow, and develop skills that will help them to achieve their educational goals. It acknowledges and celebrates their lived experiences, cultures, and unique strengths while also considering the challenges directly related to navigating a college campus as BIPOC students. The course, taught by Associate Professor Richardson and Dr. Imari Shaw, Instructor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, was piloted during Fall 2020.



# COLLEGE NEWS



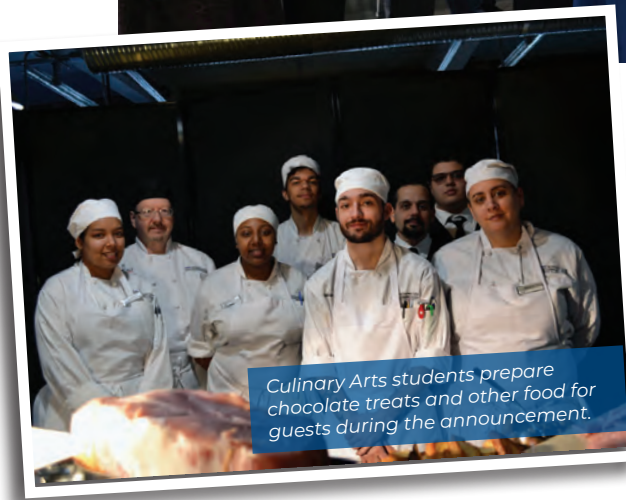
## Serving Those Who Have Served

SUNY Schenectady was named a Military Friendly School by *GI Jobs* magazine for the 2020-2021 academic year, marking the eighth consecutive year of this honor. This continuous status as a Military Friendly school shows the College's firm commitment to serve those who have served.

*Joe Clark, a Veteran of the United States Army now studying Liberal Arts with a concentration in History, works in the Veterans Affairs Office in Elston Hall, in this photo from early March 2020.*

## New Craft Chocolate Classes Will Be Sweet Addition to Downtown Schenectady

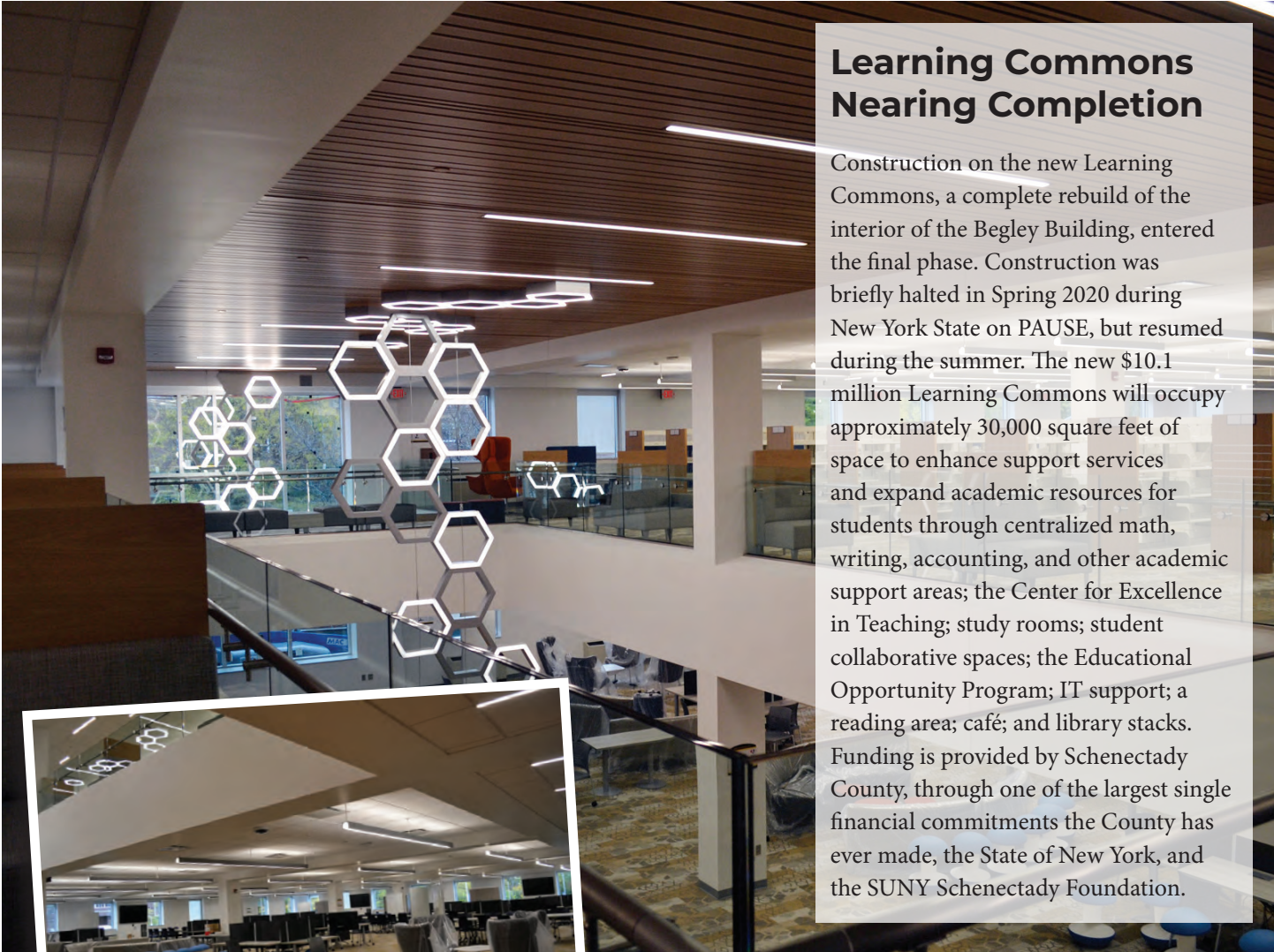
In February 2020, officials from SUNY Schenectady and Schenectady County announced a new collaboration between the College and the Mill Artisan District. Students in the Craft Beer Brewing programs will gain access to classroom space and state-of-the-art craft beer brewing equipment and resources that provide hands-on opportunities to design, brew, and distribute specialty beer products. In addition, students in the Culinary Arts program will experience a new state-of-the-art confectionery teaching facility that includes resources and equipment for the production of chocolate from scratch, part of the “bean to bar” craft chocolate movement. The new 18,000 square foot facility is located one block from the main campus.



*Culinary Arts students prepare chocolate treats and other food for guests during the announcement.*

*Above: Celebrating all things chocolate during the Mill Artisan District announcement in February 2020 are: Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Peggy King, Emeritus, College Trustee; Honorable Gary McCarthy '77, Mayor of the City of Schenectady; JT Pollard, Developer and Architect; Dr. Steady Moono, College President; Vanessa Traver, Instructor in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism; Honorable Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assembly; Dr. David Brough, Dean of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism; and Ray Gillen, Chairman, Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority.*





## Learning Commons Nearing Completion

Construction on the new Learning Commons, a complete rebuild of the interior of the Begley Building, entered the final phase. Construction was briefly halted in Spring 2020 during New York State on PAUSE, but resumed during the summer. The new \$10.1 million Learning Commons will occupy approximately 30,000 square feet of space to enhance support services and expand academic resources for students through centralized math, writing, accounting, and other academic support areas; the Center for Excellence in Teaching; study rooms; student collaborative spaces; the Educational Opportunity Program; IT support; a reading area; café; and library stacks. Funding is provided by Schenectady County, through one of the largest single financial commitments the County has ever made, the State of New York, and the SUNY Schenectady Foundation.



November 2020 - Construction on the new Learning Commons nears completion.

## New English Language Learners Club

Dr. Steady Moono meets with students in the new English Language Learners (ELL) Club, telling them about his own experiences immigrating to the United States from Zambia in 1981 to attend college. Donna Corbisiero, Associate Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts, and several students formed the club to connect ELL students with one another. The students met twice a month with Maura Davis, ELL Tutor, and Associate Professor Corbisiero to work on their language skills and help them build a community of English Language Learners at the College.





# COLLEGE NEWS

## Commencement 2020

The location and format were unexpected, but there was just as much celebration during the College's 50th Commencement which took place on campus on June 29, 2020. Approximately 465 graduates were invited to participate in the drive-through Commencement. Congratulations Class of 2020!



1. Carlos Soto, Culinary Arts, and his family are first in line during the College's 50th Commencement.
2. Faculty and staff cheer for the Class of 2020. L. to R.: Sarah Wilson Sparrow, Project Director, Apprenticeship; Alyson Bingham, Grant Administrator, HPOG; and Dr. Tiziana Rota, Project Director, from the Office of Workforce Development and Community Education.
3. LaDeana McBride, Nutrition, strikes a joyous pose before crossing the stage.
4. Proud graduate Olujide Adesina, Paralegal, celebrates his achievement with Dr. Steady Moono, College President, and Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees.
5. Dylan Attuil, Liberal Arts: Communication concentration, makes his way to have his name announced.
6. Cars line up waiting for their graduates to cross the stage.
7. As a special way to acknowledge their resilience, the names of each of this year's graduates were inscribed on commemorative bricks placed in the College's quad.





## STUDENT AWARDS/NEWS

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Congratulations to Hannah Daignault '20, who earned her degree in Nutrition and was selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2020 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. The awards recognize students who have best demonstrated the integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives. Hannah is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Neuroscience at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) on a full scholarship. She intends to attend medical school to become a surgeon.

A graduate of Burnt Hills–Ballston Lake High School, Hannah served as the Student Trustee, a Tutor, Member and President of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Senior Senator with the Student Government Association, Member of Curriculum Committee, and Chair of the Student Government Association Judicial Committee. While at the College, she was involved in an ongoing research project that examines bacteria associated with cystic fibrosis, alongside Dr. Syeda Muniam, Professor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health.



*Hannah Daignault, Nutrition major, Past President/Member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), and Student Trustee, presents the Hallmark Distinguished Alumnus Award to Robyn King, Counselor IV, during the PTK induction ceremony in February 2020.*

### Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society inductees

A new group of students was inducted into the College's Alpha Zeta Upsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society in February 2020. They all exemplify leadership and service and have achieved a 3.7 or higher grade point average. New PTK members were inducted during a virtual ceremony in October 2020.



## FACULTY, STAFF AWARDS/DEVELOPMENT



*Chef Michael Stamets, CEC, Assistant Professor in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism at SUNY Schenectady, speaking with students following his bronze medal win at the IKA Culinary Olympics. Students left to right: Tony Lirosi, Janine James, Josie Thomas, Joseph Vice, and Samantha Mayo.*

### A Chef and Now An Olympian

Michael Stamets, Certified Executive Chef, Associate Professor in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, can now call himself an Olympian after being chosen as a member of the prestigious New York Culinary Team that earned a bronze medal at the IKA Culinary Olympics in Stuttgart, Germany, in February 2020. The team was comprised of award-winning chefs from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. During the competition, Chef Stamets, who is the Coach of the College's Hot Food Competition Team, prepared a buffet platter for eight based on classical garde manger techniques that he teaches at the College. He was assisted by John Gregg, a 2019 Culinary Arts graduate.

# FACULTY, STAFF AWARDS/DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. Lorena Harris**, Director of the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), and

**Dr. Richard Simons**, Associate

Professor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, have led



Biology students in conducting research in Schenectady's Vale Park to study the organisms found there including the microbes in aquatic environments.

They recently collaborated on a publication which has been submitted to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).

Dr. Harris also conducted research in collaboration with Dr. Leif Ryvarde, Professor from the Departments of Botany, Biological Institute, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, and Dr. Teresa Iturriaga, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Curator, School of Integrated Plant Science from Cornell University. Their paper titled *Diversity of Wood Decaying Fungi from Henry Pittier National Park* has been accepted for publication in the Fall 2020 edition of *Synopsis Fungorum, Volume 42*.

**Dr. Babette Faehmel**, **Alicia Richardson**, and **Keion Clinton**,

all Associate Professors in the Division of Liberal Arts, and

**Kimberly Otis**, Assistant Professor in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, attended the 2020 Clemson University Men of Color National Summit in Greenville, S.C., in March 2020. They



are all mentors, as part of the Student Success Initiative. (Pictured are *Kim Otis and Keion Clinton*.)

**Dr. Babette Faehmel**, **Kim Otis**, and **Dr. Margaret McLellan-Zabielski**, Instructor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, completed the SUNY Center for Professional Development's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Teaching and Learning Certificate Program (with distinction).

**Dr. Babette Faehmel**, **Eileen Abrahams**, Interim Dean of the Division of Liberal Arts, and **Alicia Richardson** wrote an editorial titled, *Humanities Need To Be Part of Criminal Justice Training* which was printed in the *Times Union* in July 2020.

**Dr. David Brough**, Dean of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, was inducted into the American Culinary Federation's American Academy of Chefs.

**Dr. Karen Hosmer**, Professor in the School of Music, had her work featured in the quarterly journal of the International Double Reed Society, a reprint of an article that appeared in the *Times Union* in May 2020 titled, *Classical Notes: Albany Symphony Orchestra's Principal Oboe Keeps Her Own Time*.

**Mark Evans**, Assistant Professor in the School of Music, created and performed in the SUNY Schenectady Summer music series.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck, directed by **Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz**, Adjunct Faculty Member in the School of Music, violin, was awarded a grant from the Consulate General of the Netherlands to film two concerts in Dutch/American historic sites (Crailo and Schuyler Mansion).

**Dylan Canterbury**, Adjunct Faculty Member in the School of Music, released *Going Places*, his first album as a leader.

**Kevin Grudecki**, Adjunct Faculty Member in the School of Music, guitar, plays in the Felipe Salles' Interconnections Ensemble and appears on the ensemble's *The New Immigrant Experience* CD/DVD which was released in March 2020 and received a 4.5-star review in *Downbeat* magazine's April 2020 issue.



**Tamara Calhoun**, Professor in the Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law, became a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential Gold Standard Specialist and completed the Train the Trainer model for the NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council's Core Body of Knowledge (New York State's Core Competencies for Early Childhood Educators).

**Dr. Lorena Harris** delivered a virtual presentation as part of the *National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) National Webinar CryptoClub Showcase Exploring Mathematics in a Playful and Engaging Way* to the NGCP nationwide community of educators and leaders.

**Dr. Margaret McLellan-Zabielski**, Instructor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, **Dr. Imari Shaw**, Instructor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, and **Cayla Gaworecki**, Developmental Math Instructor in the Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law, are members of the SUNY PRODiG cohort which works to support and empower minority instructors and women in STEM.



## 2020 SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence



### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Dean Bennett, Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts

During his 16 years at SUNY Schenectady, Dr. Dean Bennett, Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts, has shown an unparalleled commitment to teaching and to his students. Dr. Bennett has taught 16 different courses, six of which he developed. He actively teaches Western and World Civilizations History courses every semester, and significantly contributes to the diversity of the Liberal Arts curricula by teaching Chinese history, Russian history, European Witch Trials, Viking World, and a historical methods course for History Concentration students. Each semester, the student evaluations he receives are outstanding, and he uses student feedback to continually improve his teaching practices. Dr. Bennett holds his Ph.D. in History from the University of Washington; M.A. in History from the University of Washington; B.A. in History and Russian from Brigham Young University; and in 2014, he earned an A.S. in Performing Arts: Music from SUNY Schenectady.



### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Barbara Jones, Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts

As the founding faculty member for the Aviation Science and Air Traffic Control programs, Barbara Jones, Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts, shares her expertise and enthusiasm with her students. As the sole full-time professor for these programs, she carries the enormous task of supporting all aspects of the programs in orientations, alumni gatherings, and other events. She is also the Advisor to the College's Flight Team. Her student evaluations are overwhelmingly positive. She has written, revised, and assessed all 27 courses within the two programs. Moreover, she has maintained her knowledge of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules and regulation changes. She holds a B.S. in Aviation Management/Flight Training from Daniel Webster College and an A.S. in Marketing/Individual Studies from Hudson Valley Community College; Commercial Pilot, Airplane Single and Multi-engine Land; Certificated Flight Instructor, Airplane; and Certificated Instrument Ground Instructor.



### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service

Arlene Moran, Executive Secretary I

Through her work in the Office of Development, Arlene Moran, Executive Secretary I, goes above and beyond the call of duty for the benefit of students. She exhibits a strong commitment to students, donors, faculty, and staff while demonstrating efficiency, accuracy, customer service, creativity, kindness, and compassion. Arlene is a creative thinker, continuously seeking new opportunities to improve the processes within the office. For example, she created a check requisition tracking system that enables the office to quickly find disbursement details for each month, which is very useful during the annual audit. She is dedicated to providing exemplary customer service, excels at building relationships with donors, and is very thoughtful when it comes to stewarding donors. Her commitment to improving the lives of students makes her a true asset to SUNY Schenectady. She holds a B.A. in English and Anthropology from the University at Albany.



# PARTNERSHIPS

## Students Navigate College and Community Through CareerNext Program



SUNY Schenectady became the first campus to partner with Living Resources on the CareerNext Program, which offers personalized academic and residential support for students with autism and learning differences to help them complete their degree or certificate program. The program began with three students in January 2019 and grew to 10 students in August 2020. Before the College went to virtual learning due to the pandemic, between their classes, students had a designated CareerNext classroom as their home base to work on assignments, map out how to schedule time for projects, and meet with Jen Mainello, Academic Coordinator (pictured). They also developed essential skills to live on their own through the CareerNext Travel and Navigation class. For Fall 2020, CareerNext supported all 10 students virtually.

## Rise High Program Has New Home at Center City Location

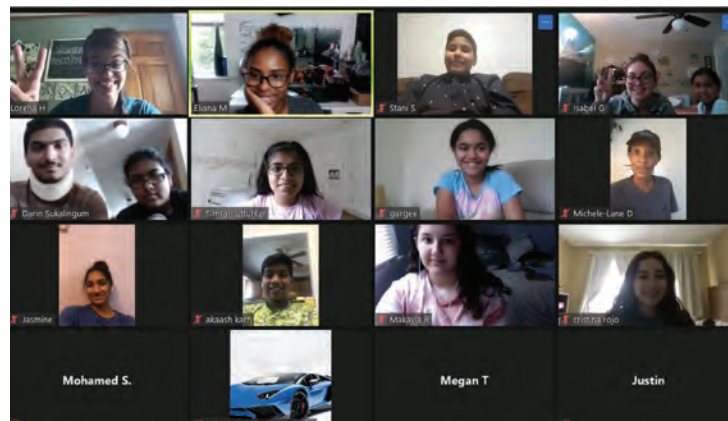


Beginning in January 2020 until the pandemic began, more than 60 students in the innovative Rise High Program discovered the many aspects of science, technology, engineering, and math at SUNY Schenectady's second floor Center City location during sessions every Saturday. Sixth-, seventh-

and eighth-graders from Central Park Middle School, Mont Pleasant Middle School, Oneida Middle School, and Solid Ground Christian Academy, joined program leaders and mentors in exploring a different area of science/technology each session while they were presented with a challenge to help develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The program has continued virtually.

## Teens Discover Love for Science During Summer Vi STEAM Academy 2020

The College hosted the Summer Vi (Vi = Virtual and interactive) STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Academy 2020 powered by Brite, a collaboration



and partnership with Hello Studios, the World Science Foundation, and the National Girls Collaborative Program. Students, ages 13 to 17, explored science, virtually met world-class women scientists who discussed their cutting-edge fields, and had behind-the-scenes tours of museums, parks, labs and studios. This was the third year the College offered the STEAM Academy, with students from the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) and the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) serving as mentors.

## High Schoolers Learn How to Build a Business

Kadie-Ann Whyte and Abus Mohamed-Ali, both 12th-graders at Schenectady High School (center), placed first in the inaugural High School Business Plan Competition held on campus in January 2020. Their winning idea focused on a daycare center. Kadie and Abus were part of a group of 20 students in the Introduction to Business course taught at the high school who presented their business ideas in front of a panel of College and high school faculty and staff. Professor Matt Farron (second from left), of the SUNY Schenectady Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law, introduced the idea for the competition and helped facilitate, along with Pam McCall (far left), Director of College and High School Partnerships, and Nicole Peek (far right), who teaches the course. All of the students are enrolled in the College in the High School program, earning college credits while they take courses in high school.



## Middle and High School Students Learn That There Are “No Limits”

Students from Mont Pleasant Middle School, Central Park Middle School, and Schenectady High School were on campus in January 2020 to learn tools and strategies to empower them and break stereotypes during *No Limits: Empowering Youth to Challenge Stereotypes*. The program was made possible through the No Limits Grant awarded by a collaboration among National Girls Collaborative Project, Mercedes Benz, and Mattel that the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) earned. Peer role models, College in the High School scholars, CSTEP students, faculty, and Liberty Partnerships Program staff presented the program.



*Dr. Lorena Harris, Director of CSTEP, speaks with Ezekiel Buckmire, an eighth-grader at Central Park Middle School, and Bridgette Buckmire, a 12th-grader at Schenectady High School, who are both in the Liberty Partnerships Program, and Ethan Depoo, an 11th-grader at Schenectady High School, who is in the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School program.*



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## SUNY Schenectady Earns \$3 Million Grant to Continue to Educate Healthcare Professionals

SUNY Schenectady earned another highly competitive Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG 2.0) through the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The \$3 million grant, an extension of the current HPOG 2.0



grant, will allow the College's Office of Workforce Development and Community Education to continue to train hundreds of eligible students for a variety of healthcare careers.

Through the Upstate Partnership for Healthcare Pathways (UPHP), SUNY Schenectady provides education and training to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals for the following: Behavioral Health Technician (BHT), Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Community Health Worker (CHW), EKG Tech, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Home Health Aide (HHA), Medical Administrative Assistant (MAA), Personal Care Aide (PCA), and Phlebotomy Technician. Students earn industry-recognized certificates and all training programs are designed as pathways to degrees and certificates so that students can advance in the healthcare field. In addition to hands-on training, students are able to access support services including skills assessment, goal setting, job placement, and job retention.

SUNY Schenectady earned the first HPOG 1.0 grant in 2010 and in 2015 received HPOG 2.0. Under the new grant, a consortium of three community colleges (SUNY Schenectady, SUNY Adirondack, and Fulton Montgomery) and two community-based organizations Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP) and Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) have achieved significant results. Many students started at the entry level and then advanced to nursing and technical education offered by colleges within the region.

Since SUNY Schenectady began offering HPOG:

- 1,837 students have been enrolled in the program
- 2,214 training courses have been offered
- More than 800 participants have been placed in jobs

HPOG 2.0, administered by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, was created under the Social Security Act to address the challenges of healthcare employers struggling to find qualified staff with the training and technical expertise required to provide the high quality of care their patients need. This latest round of funding came from the CARES act as part of the latest stimulus package.



Crystal Hodge, who has always had a calling to work in healthcare, was in the first CNA class that the College offered through HPOG in 2011, and went on to earn her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) certification through Maria College. She is now enrolled in the associate's degree Registered Nursing (RN) program there and will continue on for her bachelor's degree in Nursing. Crystal works as an LPN at The Glendale Home in Glenville.

"It sounds cliché, but I like helping people," she said. "When I started in the HPOG program I had a young child and I needed financial stability. Through the program, I gained confidence in myself and my passion for nursing has just continued to grow. When you take pride in what you do every day, there is a big sense of satisfaction in that."



## Apprenticeship Programs Expand

SUNY Schenectady serves as the lead community college for SUNY Apprenticeship focusing on healthcare and has become a DOL-approved Related Instruction Provider for IT and manufacturing titles. A recent success in the area of IT Software: three Software Developer Apprentices from Jahnel Group, MVP, and Troy Web Consulting were able to complete their related instruction and competency-based assessments at SUNY Schenectady. Training workshops and assessments were held in the Office of Workforce Development and Community Education (WFDCE) in early March 2020, which assisted the apprentices in completing a portion of their apprenticeship requirements on their way to journeyman status.

SUNY Schenectady continues work on the development of a new apprenticeship title: Craft Beverage Producer. Adding the apprenticeship

title is the natural progression for the Introduction to Craft Brewing and Distilling course that WFDCE has been running for the past five years. This new title will provide individuals the opportunity to “earn while they learn”, access to tuition support, and wage increases. For regional breweries, the new title will provide training funds, tax incentives, and increased worker retention.



*(Left) Christian Ryan, Head Brewer at Crossroads Brewing Company in Athens, N.Y., and (above) Rich Michaels, Master Brewer at Frog Alley Brewing Co. in Schenectady, have both taught brewing courses and are helping to develop the Craft Beverage Producer apprenticeship title.*

Funding for both programs is provided through the SUNY Apprenticeship Program.

## Workforce Development Offers New Google IT Training Program



The Office of Workforce Development and Community Education is working to train New Yorkers who are looking for new opportunities or a work-from-home career. The Google IT Support Professional Certificate is an online training program that was developed by Google and hosted by SUNY Schenectady for the first time this past summer. The course teaches interested individuals the skills needed to start a career in IT support and comes to Upstate New York through a collaboration with Google and Jobs for the Future, supported with funding from Google.org.

# EVENTS

1. **HCAT Expo** – January 2020 – Students in a variety of majors networked with employers and professionals during the annual Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism Career Expo in January 2020. This fun event also featured a cake and cupcake decorating contest, brewing competition, and tablescape competition.
2. Student Government Association members have fun during **Club Carnival Spirit Day**, February 2020.
3. *Students and the VOTE – The importance of Voting, from the Student Perspective* brought students and faculty together for a midday discussion in February 2020. L. to R.: **Toni Conklin**, Paralegal; **Keion Clinton**, Association Professor, Division of Liberal Arts; **Katherine Caiazzo**, Biological Technician; **TeAna Taylor**, Human Services.

4. Black History Month – Guest speaker **Nikita Hardy**, Affirmative Action Manager for Schenectady County, spoke to students and faculty during a special kickoff event.

## Black History Month Guest Speakers

4a. **Marsha Mortimore**, local historian - *Civic Engagement - The Importance of Being Involved in the Political Process*

4b. **Omar Sterling McGill**, Senate Journal Clerk, New York State Senate, Vice-Chairman, Schenectady County Human Rights Commission, and Second Vice President, NAACP Schenectady, and **Thearse McCalmon**, educator and Schenectady mayoral candidate (2018) - *Let's Get Involved - Community Working Together*

4c. **David Craft**, Community Development Clinic Fellow/Staff Attorney, Albany Law Clinic and Justice Center Community Development Clinic - *The History of Black Wall Street*

5. Culinary arts students, the Alliance for Students with Disabilities, and College staff participated in **Cupcakes for Epilepsy** with the Epilepsy Foundation Northeastern New York in early March 2020.

6. A Chamber Ensemble, comprised of students, alumni and faculty from the College's School of Music was chosen to perform Brahms' *Lieblieder Waltzes, Opus 52* at the WMHT Next Generation Festival which was scheduled to take place in April 2020 on the stage of the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. The festival, organized to bring together college music programs from throughout the Capital District, Hudson Valley, and the Berkshires, was slated to air in the spring on WMHT. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the festival was canceled. The group was also scheduled to perform as part of the College's Chamber Music Series in the Taylor Auditorium in May 2020.

L. to R.: **Mark Evans**, Assistant Professor, School of Music; **Jacob James '14**, tenor; **Carolina Medina '14**, soprano; **Iida Nyman '17**, piano; **Gabrielle Stephenson**, alto

Not pictured: Robert Frazier '19, bass, Areli Mendoza-Pannone '19, soprano

7. The School of Music hosted a weekly Summer Music Series premiering on YouTube every Thursday. Featured performers were **Rebecca Schmid '17** (7a) and **Niamh Schmid '20** (7b), piano; **Robert Frazier '19** (7c), baritone; Mark Evans, Assistant Professor, piano; **Areli Mendoza-Pannone '19** (7d), soprano; and **Matthew Giallonardo** (7e), **Mary Meyer** (7f), **Henry Zelenak** (7g), and **William Barker** (7h), piano, current Performing Arts: Music students.



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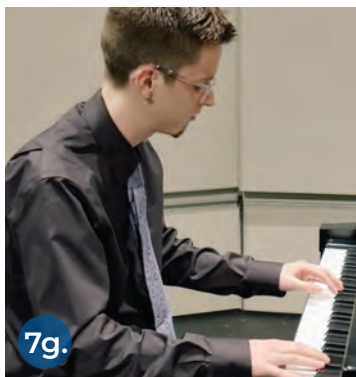


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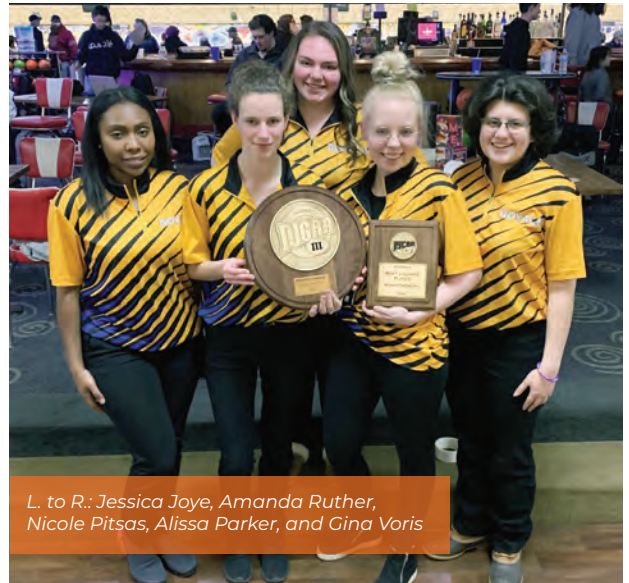




# ATHLETICS

## Women's Bowling Team Takes Home Championship Trophy

The Women's Bowling Team, with Head Coach Ronald Williams and Assistant Coach Amy Janetsky-Smith, won the Region III Women's Bowling Championship in Utica in February 2020, with 7,383 total pins, edging out five other regional teams. Gina Voris, a graduate of Niskayuna High School majoring in Criminal Justice, was recognized as the Player of the Year for the Mountain Valley Conference with a high average of 181, high triple with a 594, and high game of 243. In addition to the Regional crown, the women's team finished second (10-5) in the Mountain Valley Conference, which includes 10 community colleges in the Northeast. The women's and men's teams went on to compete in the NJCAA Bowling Championships in early March in Buffalo, N.Y.



L. to R.: Jessica Joye, Amanda Ruther, Nicole Pitsas, Alissa Parker, and Gina Voris

## College Names Male and Female Athletes of the Year

### Christian Corker, Male Athlete of the Year, Men's Basketball Team

Christian Corker, a graduate of Scotia-Glenville High School, Liberal Arts major and freshman point guard on the Men's Basketball Team, was selected for the 2019-2020 Mountain Valley Conference Third Team All-Conference. He was chosen by coaches in the conference based on his performance throughout the season, averaging 20 points per game. "Christian is a quiet leader who helped us tremendously in the second half of the year," said Head Coach Harry Rolle.

### Alissa Parker, Female Athlete of the Year, Women's Bowling Team

Alissa Parker, a graduate of Orono High School in Orono, Maine, and a Culinary Arts major, earned the Most Valuable Player Award during the Region III Women's Bowling Championship, after scoring the highest in all of the events for the weekend - doubles and singles. She and Gina Voris took first place in doubles, and she was named to the All-Conference Team.



## Student Athletes Named to Academic All-Region

Four SUNY Schenectady athletes were rewarded for their commitment to academic excellence and athletics by being named to the 2020 NJCAA Academic All-Region Team. Congratulations to Amanda Ruther, Teacher Education Transfer, Women's Bowling; Jesse Bucher, Business Administration, Men's Baseball; Alex Terwilliger, Business Administration, Men's Baseball; and Kevin Gibbs, Teacher Education Transfer, Men's Baseball.



# FOUNDATION

## Welcome Jeanne Maloy

Jeanne Maloy, newly appointed President of Marshall & Sterling Upstate, Inc., will return to serve on the Foundation Board of Directors. Jeanne previously served on the Foundation Board from 2010 to 2018, assuming the role of Chair from 2014 to 2016. In 2019, she served as Co-Chair of the *Promise of Our Common Future* capital campaign cabinet, leading the Foundation in raising \$3.6 million.

Jeanne has served on the Capital Region Chamber Board of Directors and on the Board of Directors of the Salvation Army of Schenectady, and she is a member of the Professional Insurance Agents Advisory Committee and the Travelers Agency Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Marketing with a minor in Economics from SUNY Plattsburgh.



## Anonymous Donor Gifts \$1 Million to SUNY Schenectady



## Students Benefit from Donations for Support Services

The SUNY Schenectady Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to donors who responded to an appeal for financial support to be directed toward vital student support services. Their generosity will benefit students in need through the Student Emergency Fund. The Student Emergency Fund grants confidential emergency financial assistance to students who face unusual and severe financial strain due to a sudden, unforeseen crisis outside of their control - usually a tragic, acute, and isolated event. The Foundation raised \$12,500 from the Capital Region Community COVID-19 Response Fund that is co-led by the Community Foundation and United Way of the Greater Capital Region, Stewart's Shops, faculty, staff, friends, and alumni, which was matched by the SUNY Impact Foundation, for a total of \$25,000 for the Student Emergency Fund.

"I am a single parent who was less than one semester away from graduating with my associate's degree in Criminal Justice. But when a family crisis resulted in a loss of childcare during my children's spring break, I was forced to choose between caring for my children or attending classes. If I had to miss a week of classes, I would not have been able to graduate without retaking the semester.

**With \$340 in financial assistance from the SUNY Schenectady Foundation through the Student Emergency Fund, childcare for my two children was covered for a week, allowing me to finish my classes. I walked across the stage to accept my diploma and I graduated on time."**

Samantha V.

The Schenectady County Community College Foundation received a \$1 million gift from a longtime friend and benefactor of the College, marking only the second time in the College's 50-year history that a gift of this magnitude has been made to the Foundation.

The \$1 million gift will allow the College to create an endowed student support fund with interest generated by the endowment used for the Food Pantry, Student Emergency Fund, the Student Mentoring Program, College in the High School Program, scholarships, and other initiatives that encourage student access and success, one of SUNY Schenectady's strategic goals. The donor wishes to remain anonymous.

A significant portion of the gift will be invested, resulting in annual support in perpetuity.

# FOUNDATION

## New Scholarships

Students have goals they want to achieve and dreams they are pursuing, as they grow both as students and as individuals. They are shaped not only intellectually in their chosen academic programs, but outside of the classroom by faculty and staff who serve as mentors and by all of those individuals who inspire them and serve as their “vision supporters.” Among those vision supporters are donors whose generosity makes it possible for the SUNY Schenectady Foundation to provide students with important scholarships. *Thank you!*

### Benenson Family Scholarship

It is easy to see that education was important to the Benenson Family. Ray, who was a teacher, researcher, and professor at the University at Albany for 30 years, volunteered after his retirement to introduce elementary students to physics experiments. His wife June returned to graduate school at the age of 40 to study art and earned two advanced degrees at the University at Albany. June and her daughters Joyce and Barbara established the Benenson Family Scholarship in memory of Ray to provide much-needed financial support for part-time students. It provides scholarship support for summer, fall, and/or spring semesters, up to \$3,000 each year for three years. The Benenson Family Scholarship further rewards those who actively participate in the Student Mentoring Program at the College, which has been shown to increase student success.



### Bohdan and Martha Szuminsky Scholarship

Martha Szuminsky’s passion for teaching was clearly illustrated by her longtime commitment to education.

As a devoted teacher of home economics for more than 30 years, Martha instructed and advised countless middle and high school students, helping them master the life skills that would allow them to thrive inside and outside of their homes. Martha’s dedication to education did not end with her retirement. Through her estate, provisions were made to establish the Bohdan and Martha Szuminsky Scholarship. This endowed scholarship will provide support for full-time students who might not otherwise be able to finish their degrees for generations to come.

### Ronald H. Baker Memorial Scholarship

Prior to his retirement, Ronald H. Baker was a passionate high school social studies teacher, football and wrestling coach, and later the Deputy Director of EMS for the Town of Colonie. He enrolled in the School of Music in his early 70s, regretting his abandonment of piano lessons when he was a teenager. For the last several years of his life, Ron worked toward his degree while undergoing cancer treatment. He was a beloved friend, confidante, and inspiration to his fellow classmates during his time at SUNY Schenectady. They will remember him as fearless, generous, wise, and full of life. Ron passed away at the age of 79 on Sept. 4, 2020, after a long battle with cancer. He was one class short of graduating. This annual scholarship, funded by donations in memory of Ron, will support a student in the School of Music, with preference given to a student returning to education after a period of absence.



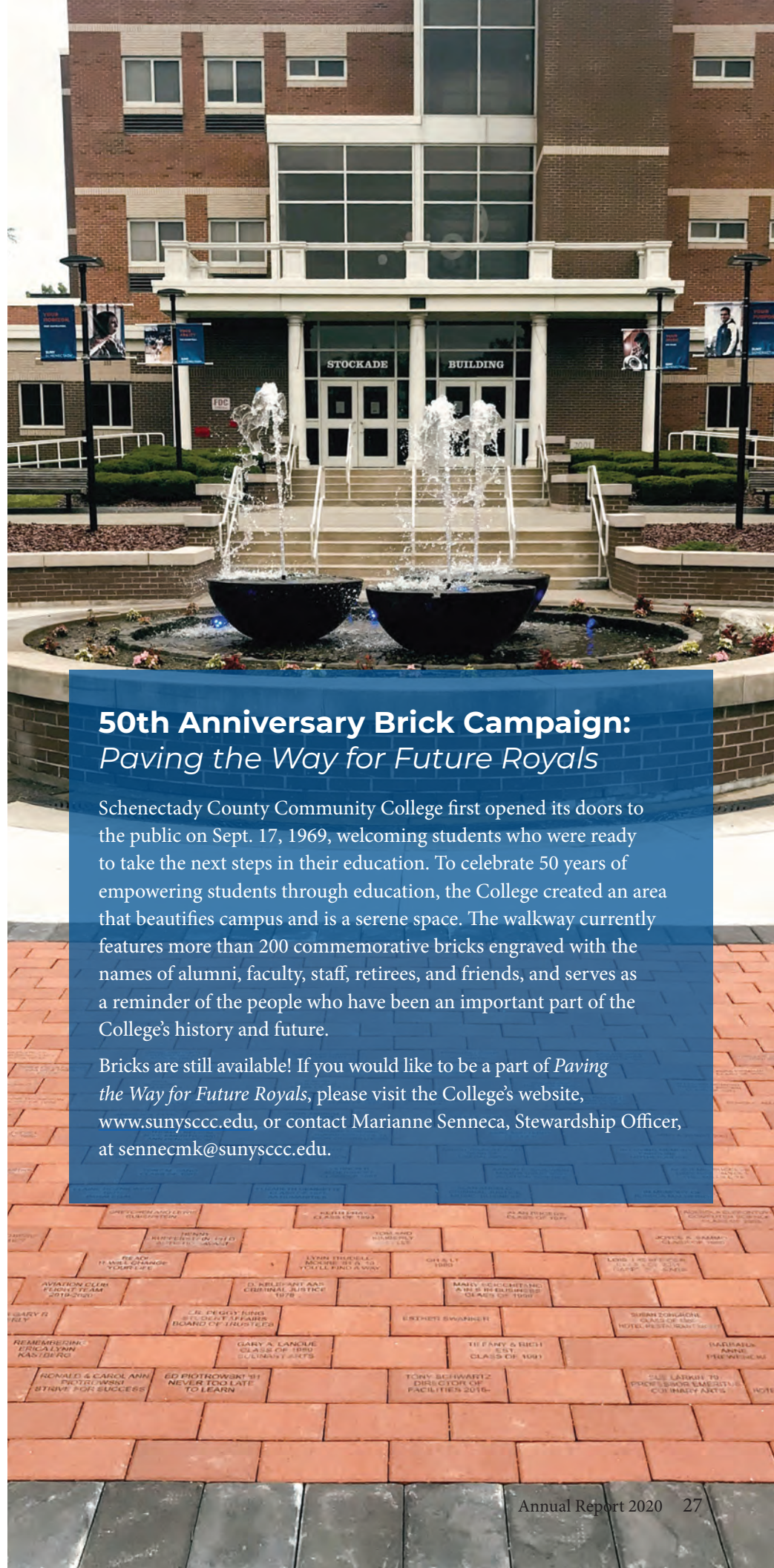
### Capital Region Women’s Network Scholarship

The Capital Region Women’s Network has a strong history of addressing the needs of women, with the goal of helping women achieve their potential, even in the face of hardship. Established through the Capital Region Endowment Fund, this generous annual scholarship celebrates women who choose to further their education despite hurdles and family challenges. In appreciation of those efforts, this fund will support students over the age of 21, who are permanent residents of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Rensselaer, or Washington counties.



## Professor/Chef Rocco Verrigni Scholarship

Professor and Chef Rocco Verrigni, from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, joined the College in 1981 and served for 36 years at the College, rising from instructor to full professor. He was recognized with the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. In partnership with fellow educator Professor Prescott Brown, he developed the longstanding student intern program for the Kentucky Derby – popular to this day. Rocky participated in several work experiences around the world: in Thailand, where he helped establish the country's first global community college, and in Italy on a teaching sabbatical that resulted in the establishment of a student intern program that allowed students to immerse themselves in the Italian food culture. During his long, successful, and satisfying career, Rocky instructed more than 2,800 students, traveled the world, and delivered the keynote address at the 2018 College Commencement. This annual scholarship for an entering or returning student in the Culinary Arts program was funded with generous donations received in his memory.



## 50th Anniversary Brick Campaign: *Paving the Way for Future Royals*

Schenectady County Community College first opened its doors to the public on Sept. 17, 1969, welcoming students who were ready to take the next steps in their education. To celebrate 50 years of empowering students through education, the College created an area that beautifies campus and is a serene space. The walkway currently features more than 200 commemorative bricks engraved with the names of alumni, faculty, staff, retirees, and friends, and serves as a reminder of the people who have been an important part of the College's history and future.

Bricks are still available! If you would like to be a part of *Paving the Way for Future Royals*, please visit the College's website, [www.sunysccc.edu](http://www.sunysccc.edu), or contact Marianne Senneca, Stewardship Officer, at [sennecmk@sunysccc.edu](mailto:sennecmk@sunysccc.edu).



# FOUNDATION

## Thank you!

The SUNY Schenectady Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses, civic and professional organizations, and local foundations for their generous gifts, as well as their participation in our special events and the *Promise of Our Common Future* capital campaign during the time period September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020.

### President's Circle

Mrs. June Benenson  
Capital Region Women's Network  
Mr. David A. Harris  
The Honorable Karen B. Johnson\*  
Marshall & Sterling Upstate, Inc.  
Gus and Magda Mininberg  
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## Albany Business Owners Inspired to Assist Food Pantry

Gus and Magda Mininberg, who have owned High Voltage Electric Service, Inc. in Albany for the past 30 years, pledged their support of the College's Food Pantry by donating \$50,000 to start an endowed fund for the Pantry, meaning that their generosity will go on in perpetuity.

Magda enjoys coming to campus and watching how the Pantry continues to expand, while exchanging ideas for its further expansion with Robyn King, Counselor IV who oversees the Pantry, and Stacy McIllduff, Vice President of Development and External Affairs. "I'm very proud and I'm also very humbled," Magda shared. "We hope there actually comes a day when you don't need the Food Pantry anymore, but right now I'm hoping I'm helping. It's very much in my Catholic tradition that charity begins at home. And SUNY Schenectady is home and an important part of the Capital Region."



Magda Mininberg with her sons Benjamin and Mark, and her husband Gus on the Union College campus in June 2018 during Mark's graduation from Union.



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This year's Commencement ceremony might have looked different from years past, but honoring students' accomplishments was still front and center. See more on page 14.