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1220 COFFEEN STREET
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
State University of New York
Sponsored by Jefferson County

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This year at commencement we celebrated our 20,000th graduate. We purposely did not identify a specific student for this designation because we wanted all of our graduating students to be part of the celebration. Plus we wanted it to be very clear that EVERY student’s success is important. Graduating students wore buttons that read “I am the 20,000th graduate” and they all stood up together when I asked for the 20,000 graduate to stand during the ceremony. It was a dynamic visual and a wonderful reminder of the pride our students feel at commencement.

Getting students to the finish line – commonly called completion – is receiving a lot of national attention. And it should. All students come to college to learn. Not all, but many, also come to gain a credential or to transfer successfully to a 4-year institution. Our role is to help them achieve their goal and we take that role very seriously. While there are many barriers to students completing their education – finances, remediation needs, work commitments, family obligations, and childcare to name a few – we must not let those barriers keep students from completing.

Studies show that completion matters. On average, students who earn a degree will have higher earnings and are more likely to retain their jobs even when the economy is weak. They will be engaged and productive citizens. College graduates are more likely to vote, volunteer, contribute to charity, serve on boards, and run for office. They are less likely to commit crimes. Research links greater educational attainment to reduced social costs and a longer life. College completion is key to better individual futures and a better collective future.

Reaching 20,000 graduates is a very positive affirmation of the outstanding work that goes on in our classrooms every day all across Jefferson’s campus. It also affirmed the many ways we support students such as through our library, tutoring, advising and counseling services. Recently, the Center for an Urban Future released a report entitled Completion Day looking at completion challenges for New York’s community colleges. One of the statistics they cited was the six-year graduation rate for all 37 SUNY and CUNY community colleges. We are proud that Jefferson’s rate was the highest, but we know there is still much work to do.

Last fall, SUNY and CUNY community colleges across the state celebrated “Completion Day” to help raise the awareness of our students and of our communities on the importance of completion. We’ve decided to make it an annual event and have already begun planning for this year. While Completion Day is a wonderful event, more important yet is the ongoing dialog and emphasis on campus about student success. We must stay focused on this important issue until we know that every student who started out planning to complete is able to do so. Our students and our community are counting on us. Here’s to 20,000 graduates with more to come!

Carole A. McCoy
President, Jefferson Community College
Class of 2013 Snapshot

- 591 Graduates / 611 Degrees
- 45% Adult Learners (age 25+)
- 36% Soldiers and Military-related
- 71% Degrees included at least 1 online class
- 17 Degrees earned entirely online
Among the sea of smiling faces, black caps and gowns, gold stoles and red, white and blue cords at Jefferson’s 49th commencement held May 17, there sat a milestone: the 20,000th graduate in the College’s 52-year history. To honor the entire class rather than single out just one recipient, every graduating student wore a button designating him or her as recipient of the 20,000 degree. When midway through the ceremony Jefferson president Carole McCoy asked the recipient of the 20,000th degree to stand, the entire class stood in unison and cheered. It was a special moment for the College and for the Class of 2013.

The celebration continued with commencement addresses by student Robert Bowen and keynote speaker Stephen Can ’80, both of which combined humor with thoughtful reflection.

Bowen characterized his time, and that of his fellow classmates, at Jefferson as “Cannonball to Cannoneer, a story of transformation and growth.”

Robert compared being a freshmen that first semester to “being a cannonball and having little control over our lives or which direction we are pointed and propelled.” As Fall semester turned into Spring, he described thinking more independently and purposefully, getting involved in campus activities, solidifying academic pursuits and “becoming more self-propelled and showing confidence in our ability to understand our true wants and desires.” As graduates, said Bowen “we have become the self-directed Cannoneers, prioritizing and projecting those cannonballs we once were toward our targets and destinies.”

Distinguished alum Stephen Can promised a short keynote address and he delivered on that promise, using a humorous framework of threes. “I, like all of you, am surrounded by and materially influenced by threes, said Can. “If you keep things simple by thinking in threes, you will do great.”

Can demonstrated his point with clever word play in threes: the best country – U.S.A.; a country defended by air, land and sea; the U.S. Flag – red, white and blue; the study of science – solid, liquid, gas; in sports - win, lose or draw; investments - buy, sell, and hold; in the restaurant business - appetizer, main course, dessert… you get the idea. But, he ended his address with the most important three of all: past, present and future.

“The past… you are able to be here today graduating because of your work, your accomplishments and support by your family and friends,” said Can. “Along the way, you’ve all made mistakes. If you learn from those mistakes, and don’t dwell on them or repeat them, along with the knowledge gained here at JCC, your past makes you strong and you will succeed.”

“The present…today is a day to celebrate your achievement and it is also a day to recognize family and friends for all they have done for you,” continued Can.

When he got to the future, Can gave graduates his own advice, of course, in a set of three.

“First, find out what you really love doing and do it great. Do not settle for anything less than that. Whatever your field of interest, I tell you to start as a generalist – make your first job one that is a mile wide and inch deep. Find what you love.”

Second, Can recommended taking risks. “This is really uncomfortable. You will fail. It’s okay. You will get back up and you’ll be stronger for it. You need to take risk to get a meaningful reward.”

“Third, enjoy the journey. The journey is the longest and best part of life. Enjoy life - you only get one – one day at a time. Hail to the threes – to JCC, to the graduates and to the future.”

During the ceremony, Stephen Can was presented with the Jefferson Citation, an award established by the JCC Board of Trustees to “recognize an individual or organization whose leadership and actions have demonstrated outstanding commitment to education and the vision and mission of Jefferson Community College.”

Mr. Can received an associate of science degree in business administration from Jefferson followed by a bachelor of arts degree in accounting from SUNY Plattsburgh and a master’s of science degree in finance from Purdue University. Mr. Can subsequently earned Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.), Certified Management Accountant (C.M.A.) and Certified Financial Manager (C.F.M.) credentials. Stephen was recognized by the JCC Alumni Association in 2004 with the Professional Achievement Award. He is currently the founding managing director and Global Fund Co-Head for Credit Suisse’s exclusive secondary private equity business, Strategic Partners. In 2007, Mr. Can established the Jefferson-Can Scholars Program, creating a full-tuition, merit scholarship for first-year JCC students who graduated in the top 15% of their respective classes from high schools in Jefferson and Lewis counties. His gift has enabled 277 students to attend JCC since 2008. The gift also established the Dr. David Walton Tutors Program, which provides support for Jefferson’s peer tutoring and supplemental instruction programs.

Stephen Can ’80
Recipient of the Jefferson Citation

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For some students in Jefferson Community College’s chemical dependency degree program, it was their personal struggles with addiction that lead them to pursue an educational path to help others.

Brenda Yerdon, a JCC student dually enrolled in the human services and chemical dependency degree programs, became addicted to alcohol as a way to cope with an abusive relationship that lasted 12 years.

“I had been told I was worthless, and I started to believe it,” Ms. Yerdon said.

Her drinking had also increased after the tragic death in 2001 of her sister, Wendy, who was killed in a head-on crash in Syracuse by a speeding and reckless driver.

“I never came to terms with her death until I stopped drinking,” Ms. Yerdon.

Ms. Yerdon said both her mental and physical health deteriorated from her almost-daily alcohol consumption. When she reached her lowest point, she finally decided to check herself into an intensive three-day inpatient detox unit at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse. She remembers the date clearly: Sept. 17, 2009.

“There was a lot of shame and guilt, but I had to do something,” Ms. Yerdon said. “I knew I had to change it, or the drinking would kill me.”

She then moved into outpatient treatment and also joined an Alcoholics Anonymous group. But in order to really move forward with her recovery, Ms. Yerdon said she needed to end the abusive relationship.

“I found faith in myself and I learned to love myself,” she said. “I realized that I needed to spend as much time on my recovery as I had spent on my addiction.”

Her health improved, and she lost 80 pounds. The single mother then decided to take another big step and enroll at Jefferson Community College.

“I had always wanted to go to college,” said Ms. Yerdon, who graduated from high school in 1985. “But I didn’t think it was possible.”

She decided to pursue an associate of science degree in human services and when the College added the associate of applied science degree in chemical dependency, she became dually enrolled in both programs. Ms. Yerdon is scheduled to complete her final coursework in December. She has already completed two internships through JCC at the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County and Jefferson County Department of Social Services.

“I believe if I was able to turn my life around, anyone can,” Ms. Yerdon said. “It’s never hopeless.”
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Ms. Yerdon, who is waitressing and cleaning to support herself while in school, has maintained a nearly 4.0 average each semester. She was selected Most Outstanding Human Services Student and has received five scholarships through the JCC Foundation to help fund her education.

Ms. Yerdon said she has received a great deal of support from her instructors in the human services and chemical dependency degree programs.

“I was lucky because I had the support of my kids, my mother, my siblings and my friends,” she said. “But I also have received so much support from the College.”

The professors at JCC “are very supportive. I can go to them when I’m frustrated, and they really care about what happens to you. They really want you to succeed,” Ms. Yerdon said.

Classmate Robert Bowen graduated with dual degrees in human services and chemical dependency. Mr. Bowen, a married father of two, was named to the President’s List and served as vice president of the human services club. He was selected as the student speaker for May’s commencement exercises.

A native of Wyoming, Mr. Bowen earned his General Equivalency Diploma after leaving high school his junior year. He served in the Army and later worked in several different fields, including construction, landscaping, the restaurant business, trucking and as a tattoo artist. He decided to start work on his college degree in 2010 and chose the human services field because of a strong desire to help others. It was his own personal experiences that lead him to that decision, he said.

“I had my first drink at five or six and was drinking regularly by thirteen,” he said. “Throw a few illicit drugs in there and that was my youth. Fast forward to the weekend of my graduation and, as I walked across the stage accepting my diploma, my youngest brother was entering a detox and rehabilitation program.”

Mr. Bowen said “I have had many friends and family affected by our ‘pop a pill’ society. This look at our culture of drinking and drug use was one of the best things about the chemical dependency program at JCC,” he said. “So many other non-medication options should be attempted first.”

Mr. Bowen is currently working part-time at the Mental Health Association of Jefferson County and the Veteran’s Outreach Center.

The chemical dependency degree program prepares graduates to take the written portion of the Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Certification (CASAC) exam in New York State. After completing the program, students will have earned 350 educational hours and 1000 work-related hours toward their CASAC certification.

The new degree program was started at JCC this past spring, and “we’ve had a very positive response,” said Pam Kaus, LMSW and JCC assistant professor of human services. Enrollment in the chemical dependency degree program is expected to reach approximately 70 students for the fall semester, a combination of human services majors, along with those majoring in other areas such as criminal justice or nursing.

“We are very student-focused, especially in this program,” said Ms. Kaus. “We are working with some people who may have personal troubles, and we need to be role models and show them what it means to be human services professionals.”

At the beginning of the spring semester, “when I asked students why they were enrolling in the program, many said it was because they had experienced addiction themselves, or they had a close family member or friend who had dealt with it,” she said.

Those who have successfully recovered from an addiction can draw on their own experience to help others, although they must be careful how they relate to the client, Ms. Kaus said.

“In order to be an effective counselor, the main thing individuals have to do is keep themselves out of the story and be totally present in the client’s story,” Ms. Kaus said. “Their bias, their judgments, their values must be left outside the counseling session. They are there to help clients solve their own problems.”

But at some point, a counselor could disclose that he or she had been through a similar situation with an addiction and therefore could empathize with the client’s experience. This type of “limited” disclosure may help gain a client’s trust, Ms. Kaus said.

“They can share a little of their own story” while keeping the main focus on the client and helping that client to figure out how to solve his or her own problems, she said.

Many JCC students have chosen to obtain dual degrees in human services and chemical dependency because it increases their opportunity to find employment by making them “more marketable,” Ms. Kaus said.

“No matter where you work in the human services field, you will interact at some point with people who also have substance abuse issues,” she said. There are many co-occurring issues with chemical dependency, such as homelessness and unemployment, Ms. Kaus said.

For many students, adding only one extra semester of classes will allow them to obtain dual degrees in human services and chemical dependency because many of the degree requirements are the same.

Students who wish to earn only the chemical dependency degree can complete the program in four full-time semesters, or longer if the student attends part-time. The degree will prepare students who want to enter the chemical dependency field for an entry level job such as an intake coordinator or service provider.

Those who decide to work in the field and earn their CASAC certification through New York State will have that credential recognized in a majority of other states as well, a benefit to those military students who may relocate out of the area.

The degree can also be paired with a bachelor’s degree in social work offered by Keuka College through JCC’s Higher Education Center, or the credits can be transferred toward other bachelor’s degree programs in related fields.
A Changing Landscape

Design Build General Contractor:
Purcell Construction Corporation
Watertown, NY

Architect:
Mach Architecture + Engineering, P.C.
Williamsville, NY

Engineers:
Bernier, Carr & Associates, Watertown, NY
Beardsley Design Associates, Auburn, NY
Just about one year for now, the campus of Jefferson Community College will look vastly different. Situated on the corner of Campus Drive and Rand Drive will be a four-story, 98,000 sq. ft. residence hall complex that will allow nearly 300 students to call JCC home. The new living and learning community changes the landscape of the College in many ways - by providing the residential opportunity for students who wish to live away from home or for whom the commute is simply too far and by adding a ‘24/7’ vibrancy to the campus.

A groundbreaking ceremony in June kicked off the official construction phase after five years of planning that started with a feasibility study in 2008. During the ceremony, which was attended by nearly 100 students, faculty/staff, community members and project partners, College president Carole McCoy thanked the many partners who have worked collaboratively to move this project forward.

"After conducting two feasibility studies, talking to practically everyone in New York State who has worked on a community college residence halls project, massive amounts of feedback and debate, and staying focused on our goal, we did it!" said Dr. McCoy.

“When we embarked on this project, we did it for one reason – our students,” said McCoy. “They have always benefitted from the quality of the education they receive at Jefferson, our affordability, the career skills they develop and the range of transfer opportunities. Now we can further enhance their college experience and provide residential students with an even greater edge to achieving academic success.”

Studies have shown that students who live on campus are more likely to return the following year, succeed academically and complete their degree. Living on campus provides the opportunity for students to interact more with other students, take part easily in campus activities, and to further develop their overall personal growth and development.

Betsy D. Penrose, vice president for students, looks forward to the dynamic living and learning community the residence halls will create on campus.

“The building design is very purposeful in that it incorporates significant learning and study space,” said Penrose. “And, we also recognize that college is about more than books. A positive residential life experience leads to personal growth. The building includes open common spaces for students to connect and talk. There will be leadership opportunities within the residence halls and the ability to participate in activities that will bring an evening and weekend vibrancy to campus, which will benefit all Jefferson students.”

The living space features a combination of double bedrooms and single bedrooms in four spacious styles of suites designed for 6-person, 5-person, 4-person or 3-person occupancy. Each suite is fully furnished including a kitchenette with a sink, microwave, refrigerator, cabinetry, table and chairs; a bed and desk; and a living room with a couch and chairs.

Residence hall amenities include:
- Laundry and study lounge on every floor
- Wireless internet through the entire building
- 24-hour security
- Short walking distance to all campus buildings

A common area will join the two building wings and feature study lounges, classrooms, computer nook and large group meeting room.

Currently, more than half of community colleges within the SUNY system offer on-campus housing for students or are in the process of building on-campus housing. State law prevents community colleges from owning residence halls; thus Jefferson’s student housing will be owned and operated by the Faculty Student Association Auxiliary arm of the Faculty Student Association (FSA), a not-for-profit organization that provides ancillary services to JCC, including child care, dining and bookstore operations. Financing for the $17 million residence hall project has been provided by Citizens Bank.

Plans call for the residence hall to be enclosed before winter and completed in July of 2014. In August, students will move in for the start of the fall 2014 semester. Housing applications will be available on JCC’s website, www.sunyjefferson.edu, in October of 2013. To learn more or to sign up for electronic housing updates, please email reslife@sunyjefferson.edu.
Classrooms Transformed for Hands-On Career Training

While JCC offers students a variety of internships and learning opportunities in the community, modern technology and creative minds have made similar opportunities available on campus with the transformation of traditional classrooms into realistic training sites. This fall, JCC criminal justice and early childhood majors will gain hands-on experience without leaving campus when they apply what they learn and get a feel for their respective work environment right in the classroom.

Firearms Simulator Puts Criminal Justice Majors in the Line of Fire

An armed robbery, a court proceeding gone awry or a violent attack on police – those are just a few scenarios from the real-life based firearms training simulator used by criminal justice majors at JCC. The PRISim Suite Portable Trainer Pro L600 Package is a supplementary teaching tool that provides virtual police operational encounters transforming JCC’s classroom into a simulation lab. The software, funded by a Carl D. Perkins Grant, provides more than 1,500 ready-to-use training scenarios with the capability to create customized settings.

Students face a wide projection screen holding a lightweight semiautomatic Glock model 17 and stand ready to give verbal commands, practice decision-making and judgment skills, and move with their weapon. Students quickly learn the simulation lab is much more than a high tech video game as they experience shoot/don’t shoot situations, practice firearms safety, and develop proper shooting techniques. “This addition to our program gives students as close to real life experience as possible at a training level generally acquired at the police academy,” says Alteri.

In addition to students taking Intro to Criminal Justice, Criminal Administration Procedures, Issues in Public Safety and Basic Firearms courses, the firearms simulator is also used by local law enforcement for training.

Early Childhood Majors Get Their Hands on Tools of the Trade

This fall, early childhood majors will gain hands-on experience in a classroom furnished over the summer with young children’s furniture and toys. The availability of these tools of the trade will better prepare students to use these same resources typically available in an early childhood (pre-K to age 5) classroom or childcare center to teach the concepts of literacy, creative arts, math and science. Wooden unit blocks help children learn concepts in math and physics. The water table enhances children’s understanding of cause and effect relationships. The book case is designed to display books so the covers face forward to catch a youngster’s interest. The hardwood equipment brings the outdoors in and allows the children to connect to the natural world. The double sink provides water access not only to aid in creative arts, but to learn proper hand washing techniques.

“Our students will benefit by learning skills in a realist environment, which they then will bring to the work place,” said Gwen Francis-Frey, associate professor of early childhood and department chair. “Students are much more likely to engage in learning activities in a real early childhood classroom setting if they have already personally experienced the same activity in a college classroom.”

Training and Education for Firefighters

Whether it is a residential or business fire, car accident or flood, firefighters need the knowledge and hands-on experience to act fast when duty calls. Paid and volunteer firefighters, as well as emergency service personnel, can advance their training by taking courses in JCC’s Fire Protection Technology (FPT) certificate program. Taught by experts in the field, courses are a combination of classroom, lecture and hands-on experience. For those who want to take their training to the next level and advance their career, JCC offers an associate of applied science (AAS) degree in Fire Protection Technology. Credit earned in the FPT certificate program can be applied to the degree program.

“Public safety is a major concern in our society,” says Cindy Shelmidine, public safety department chair. “Now firefighters can get a little training, or a lot, take a course or two, or complete their associate’s degree and make a career out of their passion - all right here at JCC.”

JCC’s FPT certificate and degree program curriculum follows International Fire Service Accreditation Congress certification standards and is nationally accredited by the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education program. Graduates are trained in making fire inspections, providing fire prevention education, investigating fires, and working in the fire insurance business.

Financial aid is available including a variety of scholarships. One in particular, offered by the Fireman’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY), is available for local volunteer firefighters. Five JCC students were awarded the FASNY scholarship during the spring semester. “Receiving the FASNY scholarship was a terrific honor as is with receiving any scholarship,” says John Winfield Cobb, Adams, fire protection technology major at JCC and volunteer firefighter. “To know that there are organizations out there and people out there that are willing to help college students achieve their career goals is very humbling.” Visit www.fasny.com for more information about the FASNY scholarship and eligibility requirements.
At the end of May, fourteen engineering students from JCC flew to Cape Canaveral, Florida to visit the NASA Kennedy Space Center. Associate professor of engineering Genny Pond says, “timing couldn’t have been better” to arrive while the Space Shuttle Launch Program was in transition to the Orion Rocket Program. JCC students were afforded a once in a lifetime opportunity to walk right on the launch pad into the fire shield area, the space that fills with fire and smoke immediately below the space shuttle during lift-off. Dismantling of the platforms requires only limited security and all fuel had been removed, allowing the students unusually up-close access to the launch pad area. Students also toured a 52-story vehicle assembly building where rockets are assembled before being rolled to the launch pads.

“This trip gave me a much better appreciation and perspective of an engineer,” said Tyler Hess, a freshman engineering science major at JCC. “Seeing the magnitude of the structures, and hearing how many people it actually takes to build these rockets brought a lot into perspective for me. I had begun to limit myself on what I can really do, but then going on this trip I’ve realized I can do anything with enough drive and persistence.”

“Students fear that, as an engineer, they will be working all by themselves on math and physics problems in a cubicle somewhere,” said Pond. “This trip really drove home what really happens: teams of hundreds of people creating, working, and experimenting together to solve problems — similar to what students have already done in a dynamics book, but on a much larger scale.”

The NASA trip was made possible by support from the JCC Science Division and grants from the JCC Foundation and JCC Student Government.
Adjunct Instructor Pens Biography of Daughter

Among her many poems, short stories, book reviews and news articles, JCC adjunct instructor Margot C. Jacoby can now add a book to her growing list of published works. Love Lives, a biography of Margot’s daughter Martha Papworth O’Neill, was released on August 24, 2013 at JCC during the 2nd annual walk/run fundraiser to benefit the Martha Papworth O’Neill Memorial Scholarship. Martha, an adjunct instructor at JCC who taught journalism and reading, died of kidney cancer in 2010.

Welcome Center at JCC Growing

Chances are when you call Jefferson Community College you may be speaking to a student ambassador in the Welcome Center. A program that began in 2009 with a student ambassador in the Welcome Center, has grown to sixteen during the spring 2013 semester. Ambassadors lead campus tours, help students navigate campus, and provide one-on-one assistance to prospective students with the application process, completing the FAFSA financial aid forms and loan applications, printing schedules and ordering transcripts. Through her consulting business, Alicia also provides grant writing services and assistance with business and marketing plan development for small businesses and non-profit organizations. In 2008, Alicia co-founded the Thousand Islands Young Leaders Organization (TIYLO) and, as chairman, has lead strategic planning efforts, managed fiscal operations, recruited volunteers and coordinated fundraising activities that benefit several local non-profit organizations and the community at large. In 2009, Alicia was recognized by the American Heart Association®

Jefferson Designated Gold Fit Friendly Company

For the second year, JCC has been recognized by the American Heart Association as an employer that “has not only recognized the importance of a healthy workplace for employees, but has taken important steps to create a culture of physical activity in the workplace.” Congratulations to the office of athletics/physical education who worked alongside JCC’s health and wellness center to successfully retain Gold level status.

College Welcomes Foundation Executive Director

Jefferson warmly welcomes Alicia M. Dewey, Clayton, as college development officer for the JCC Foundation. Ms. Dewey is a graduate of Jefferson with degrees in both business administration and paralegal studies.

Since 2007, Ms. Dewey has been employed by the Town of Clayton, serving as executive assistant to the town supervisor and as the grant administrator. In January 2012, Ms. Dewey was also appointed the Town of Clayton’s director of finance and human resources. Through her consulting business, Alicia also provides grant writing services and helps with issues in the classroom.

Greater Watertown Jaycees with the Young Professionals Award for Civic Engagement. In addition to her associate degrees from JCC, Ms. Dewey holds both a bachelor of arts degree and a master of education degree from St. Lawrence University.

VISTA Grant Serves Veteran Students at JCC

During the past year, Jefferson has provided additional veterans services via a grant from the AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program. Since September 2012, Dwight Doane has served as the VISTA veterans services coordinator working with JCC’s veteran students to first determine and then address unmet needs.

Many of the unmet needs surrounded understanding of our veterans experiences,” said Doane. “The understanding of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) by other students, faculty and staff alike was paramount in their concerns.”

In April, Mr. Doane brought retired SGT Rick Yarosh, a veteran severely injured in Iraq, to campus to share his positive outlook on overcoming adversity. Mr. Yarosh’s down-to-earth manner put the audience at ease and painted a clearer picture of what it means to serve and then once again become part of the civilian community. In January, the Watertown Vet Center presented to JCC’s staff and faculty regarding PTSD and TBI. Attendees left with a better understanding of what veteran students go through on a daily basis and many tips to help with issues in the classroom.

American Heart Association
Learn and Live

Dwight Doane has served since 2012.

Learning & Success Center Earns National Tutoring Designation

Congratulations to the staff of the Scanlon Learning & Success Center (LSC) at JCC. Recently, the LSC’s tutoring program was certified by the College Reading & Learning Association’s International Tutor Training Program.

Dwight assisted 16 students to remain enrolled in college by connecting them directly with community agencies that could meet their needs. This in and of itself, made the grant a success.

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Having Dwight, also a veteran, on campus to work with other veterans on a regular basis proved to be invaluable. Many students have remarked that the ability to have “one of their own” to talk with made the ordeal of transitioning from soldier to student less challenging. Dwight assisted 16 students to remain enrolled in college by connecting them directly with community agencies that could meet their needs. This in and of itself, made the grant a success.

“This experience was a wonderful opportunity,” said Doane. “Being able to assist fellow veterans and watching them continue to follow their dreams is a very fulfilling task.”
Jefferson's graduation rate ranked #1 among all community colleges in New York State!

Source: Center for an Urban Future, 2013

Writer's Contest Deadline Around the Corner

The English department at JCC is still accepting submissions for the 2013 North Country Writers Contest through September 13. The Writers Contest is open to all residents and friends of the upstate New York region and categories include Short Fiction, Poetry and Essay/Non-Fiction. The award for each genre is $100 and publication on JCC's website. There is no entry fee. Visit www.sunyjefferson.edu for complete contest guidelines. Questions? Email jpierce@sunyjefferson.edu or call 315-786-2328.

New Student Trustee

Philip P. James, Carthage, has been elected by the student body to serve as student trustee on the JCC Board of Trustees for the 2013-2014 academic year. Philip is an accounting major at Jefferson. His campus activities include assisting fellow students as a peer tutor with the Strategies to Achieve Results (STAR) program and as an orientation CORE Leader with the New Student Services department of the Scanlon Learning & Success Center. Additionally, he is a member of the JCC Wind Ensemble. After earning his associate's degree from JCC, Philip plans to earn his bachelor’s degree and become a certified public accountant.

College Launches New Career Planning Web Resource

In June, JCC launched CareerLink, an online career planning and resource tool. CareerLink is designed for use by area high school and JCC students to explore prospective careers and related programs of study. The Professional Profiles section of CareerLink features JCC alumni and community members sharing information about their career and academic background. The profiles also demonstrate how students can begin their career path in one of Jefferson’s academic programs.

If you are interested in assisting prospective students with researching career options, please complete the professional profile form located in CareerLink on www.sunyjefferson.edu (under Getting Started, click Explore CareerLink) or contact Michael Burns or Michele Gefell for additional information at 315-786-2271.
2013 Retirees
(l to r): Karen Webb, Frank Florence, Carolyn Clarke, Mark Strader, Shirley Weikel, Marie Ross, Marv Lou Brottman (missing from photo: Ann Dins and Bruce Lobaito)

Spirit of Jefferson Award
(l to r) Trustee Michael Crowley, Connie Holberg, President Carole McCoy, Becky Small Kelley

Emeriti Recognition
(l to r) Trustee Michael Crowley, Professor Emeritus Richard Young, President Carole McCoy (Missing from photo: Trustee Emeritus Richard Howland)

30 Milestone Years of Service
(l to r) Michael White, Mary Newman, Tina Berkey, Kevin Clark

15 Milestone Years of Service
(l to r) Rosemary Deussier Jensen, Linda Denning, Michael Babcock, Ken Steinweis, Courtney Bauer

SUNY Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence
(l to r) Mark Streiff, Patty Jacobs, Mark Strader (Pictured in the right): Michael Burns

The Library Learning Commons
(l to r) Trustee Michael Crowley, Connie Holberg, President Carole McCoy, Becky Small Kelley

30 Milestone Years of Service
(l to r) Michael White, Mary Newman, Tina Berkey, Kevin Clark
Community Events

Coming this Fall...

JCC brought many crowd-pleasing and thought provoking guests to campus during the past spring semester, among them Holocaust survivor Esther Bauer, Martin Luther King III, wounded veteran Rick Yarosh, and author Siobhan Fallon. Families and students were treated to performances by Black Violin and Wacky Chadd. This fall, JCC has another exciting schedule for students and community members alike! Whether you are looking for events for the entire family or a reason to tap your foot, look no further than JCC during the fall season. Following is a partial listing of upcoming Jefferson events. Please be sure to visit our online events calendar for a full listing of activities, www.sunyjefferson.edu, and click on the 'News & Events' tab at the top.

Jefferson has an exciting **Cultural Arts Series** planned for the fall that the whole family will find entertaining and educational, as well as accommodative for any budget – all events are free admission!

On Friday, September 20, treat the family to **An Evening of Dance featuring classical Indian dancer Bharati Jayanthi and Russian folk ensemble Barynya**. At the tender age of 8, Bharati Jayanthi began learning one of her country’s most popular classical dances called bharata natyam. A form of artistic expression, bharata natyam depicts the dancer’s interpretation of the song through a combination of face and hand gestures, sculpturesque poses, and expressive dance.

Following Bharati’s performance, Russian folk ensemble Barynya will showcase song, dance, music and hand-made costumes of Russian, Cossack, Ukrainian, Jewish and Gypsy descent. Sounds of the Russian folk button accordion, Gypsy guitar and balalaika (similar to a mandolin) instruments will fill the theater. Audience members may even learn a word, or two, in Russian! Barynya has performed at national and international political events, film premieres, Carnegie Hall, United Nations and the Smithsonian Institute.

On Friday, November 22, plate spinning and feet juggling **Chinese Acrobats** return to JCC. Chinese cultures and customs will be narrated throughout the show while contortionists perform what most consider the impossible. Don’t let the kids miss this high energy acrobatic performance!

On Friday, December 6 enjoy **An Evening of Classical Piano with Isaac James**. With a repertoire ranging from classical to jazz and cabaret, concert pianist Isaac James has served as resident accompanist for community, symphonic and collegiate choral groups on the pipe organ and piano. Recently Isaac founded the annual P. Owen Willaman International Piano Competition named after his late friend and Shapiro Award recipient who died in 2009. Isaac has performed throughout the Northeast and worked with Bulgarian opera singer Evgeniya Krachmarova-Sotirov. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2012.

**Actor Todd Bridges, of Diff’rent Strokes Fame, Shares Story of Recovery on October 4**

Former child star Todd Bridges, who played the character of Willis Jackson and rose to popularity as the target of Diff’rent Strokes famous catchphrase ‘What’chu talkin about Willis?’, will share his struggle with addiction, run-ins with the law and his fight to find his own identity during a presentation at JCC on Friday, October 4 at 7:30 p.m.

When Diff’rent Strokes went off air in 1986, Todd faced numerous traumas associated with childhood stardom and turned to drugs. His actions did not go unnoticed by the public eye or the police, and his decisions almost earned him a life sentence in jail. Today, Todd uses his experience to encourage others to be strong when facing life struggles. Based on his book *Killing Willis*, released in 2010, the presentation will be followed by a book signing in the Sturtz Theater foyer.

**Founder of Internet Sensation PostSecret to Visit Campus on Oct. 23**

JCC will host Frank Warren, founder of PostSecret, for a presentation on Wednesday, October 23. Named 4th most influential person on the internet by Forbes magazine in 2009, Warren will share the story of his success behind a community art project called PostSecret. PostSecret was founded on the idea of providing a place for people to share their most soulful story or secret with another human being. Secrets, shared by mail on a personally decorated postcard, reveal hidden acts of kindness, shocking habits, quiet fears and sometimes criminal activity. Today, the PostSecret website has been visited by more than 450 million visitors and earned six weblog awards. Frank has authored two books on the project and has appeared on FOX News, CNN, CBC, NPR, USA Today, the Today Show and 20/20.
JCC to feature Muslim Journeys Program in November

In November, Jefferson will present a series of programs based on “Muslim Journeys,” a program supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities Bridging Cultures initiative.

Through a grant awarded from the National Endowment for the Humanities Muslim Journeys Bookshelf, the Melvil Dewey Library received a collection of 25 books, three films and a one-year subscription to the database Oxford Islamic Studies Online. The materials focus on Islamic history, literature and culture from a world-wide perspective. The series in November will showcase several of the themes of the Bookshelf collection that provide a connection between the books and films. Speakers will include college faculty, JCC students, local clergy, and representatives from the Islamic Society of Central New York.

Nov. 12 at 12:25 p.m.: Connected Histories
Nov. 13 at 12:30 p.m.: Islamic Art and Architecture film and discussion
Nov. 13 at 6:00 p.m.: American Stories, showing/discussion of the film Prince Among Slaves (note: this program takes place at the Robert C. McEwen Library on Ft. Drum)
Nov. 14 at 12:25 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.: Pathways to Faith Panel Discussion

All programs are free and open to the public. Please call Jefferson at 315-786-2225 for additional information.

Halestorm to Rock the McVean Gymnasium on November 3

Jefferson will be rockin’ on Saturday, November 30 when heavy metal band, Halestorm, performs in concert at 8:00 p.m. Opening for Halestorm is local favorite Lake Effect Mud.

In February 2013, Halestorm won their first Grammy Award in the Best Hard Rock/Metal Performance category for their song “Love Bites (So Do I)” from their 2012 album, The Strange Case Of… Halestorm was chosen for the Grammy Award over long-standing heavy metal bands Megadeth, Marilyn Manson and Anthrax. Lead singer Lizzy Hale made history as the first woman in the hard rock/metal category to receive a Grammy Award. Members of the Pennsylvania based band include siblings Arejay and Lizzy Hale, Joe Hottinger and Josh Smith. Halestorm released two other albums in 2012, Hello It’s Mz Hyde and ReAniMate.

Concert tickets will go on sale for JCC students on Friday, September 6 at 12:00 p.m. The general public will be able to purchase tickets beginning Friday, September 13. All seating is general admission and tickets cost $35. JCC students who have paid the college student life fee and present SUNY ID may buy one ticket at a reduced price of $20 in person at the JCC Student Activities office. To purchase tickets online, visit www.sunyjefferson.edu and click on “Tickets Box Office” under Quick Links. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the JCC Student Activities office, Room 4-100 (McVean Center) or by calling 315-786-2431. All ticket sales are final.
Cannoneer Hall of Fame Class of 2013 Inducted August 15

The 2013 Cannoneer Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held in conjunction with the Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony on August 15 at the Watertown Elks Lodge. Joining the Athletic Hall of Fame are Steven H. Brown (above left, with athletic director Jeff Wiley), longtime member of JCC’s athletic board of control and announcer/scorekeeper for the men’s and women’s basketball games, and Steven A. Howard ’99, basketball player whose records of 51 points scored in a single game coupled with his career total of 1566 points still stand today.

Sponsored by Liberty Mutual and Watertown Savings Bank.

College Honors Student Athletes at 14th Annual Athletic Banquet

In May, JCC student athletes were recognized and honored for their hard work and dedication during the 2012-2013 season at the College’s 14th Annual Athletic Banquet held at the Watertown Elks Lodge. Three athletes were presented scholarships.

The D. Rene Valentine Memorial Scholarship, given to a student athlete who demonstrates tremendous leadership and work ethic both in the classroom and on the field, was awarded to senior softball player, Jessica Dobson-Tufo of Watertown. The Frontier League awards scholarships to two former Frontier League athletes who excel both in the classroom and on the field. This year’s recipients are Kari Gehrke, Belleville, of the women’s soccer team, and Gabrielle Navarra, Watertown, of the women’s lacrosse and soccer teams.

Outstanding Senior Male Athlete was awarded to Tyler Decker, Adams, of the JCC baseball team; and Outstanding Senior Female Athlete was awarded to Morgan Kiernan, Copenhagen, of the women’s soccer and basketball teams. Outstanding Freshman Male Athlete was awarded to Kyle Simmons, Watertown, of the JCC baseball team; and Outstanding Freshman Female Athlete was awarded to Paige Morgia, Antwerp, of the women’s soccer team.

Congratulations to all Jefferson student athletes!
MSAC All Conference Team
Joseph A. Spooner, Watertown, men's lacrosse
Nicolas Espino, Bronx, baseball
Jacob J. Welch, Spencerport, baseball
Tyler R. Decker, Adams, baseball
Kyle Simmons, Watertown, baseball
Nathan T. Mastervick, Beansville, Ontario, baseball
Chadd W. Call, Watertown, golf
Michael J. Donnelly Jr., Cape Vincent, golf
Jessica Dobson-Tufo, Watertown, softball

NJCAA Region III Athlete of the Week
Tyler R. Decker, Adams, baseball

NJCAA Region III Division III All-Region Team
Gabrielle I. Navarra, Watertown, women's lacrosse, 1st team
Caitlin E. Stone, Watertown, women's lacrosse, 1st team
Erica H. Gardner, Watertown, women's lacrosse, 2nd team
Allison L. Brady, Carthage, women's lacrosse, 2nd team
Jessica Dobson-Tufo, Watertown, softball, 2nd team
Kyle Simmons, Watertown, baseball, 1st team
Tyler R. Decker, Adams, baseball, 1st team

NJCAA Region III All-American Team
Caitlin E. Stone, Watertown, women's lacrosse, 1st team
Kyle Simmons, baseball, 3rd team

2013 SUNY Chancellor's Scholar-Athlete Award
Congratulations to Gabrielle I. Navarra, Watertown, recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Scholar Athlete Award which is given to a student for academic excellence and athletic achievement. Gabby graduated in May with an associate of arts degree in liberal arts-humanities and social sciences. She played on both the women's lacrosse and soccer teams at JCC.

NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (GPA of 3.60-3.79)
Melissa A. Abbate, Adams Center, women's soccer
Gabrielle I. Navarra, Watertown, women's soccer and lacrosse
Linne L. Ebbrecht, Brownville, volleyball
Andrew M. Guyette, Watertown, men's soccer

Chadd Call Wins NJCAA Region III Division III Regional Golf Championship
A first in the history of the College, Jefferson athlete Chadd W. Call, Watertown, won the NJCAA Region III Golf Championship and placed 22nd at the national competition held at Chautauqua Golf Club. Congratulations Chadd!

Baseball Coach Receives Coach and Co-Coach of Year Honors
JCC baseball coach John Northrop was named Region III Coach of the Year by the National Junior College Athletic Association and Co-Coach of the Year by the Mid-State Athletic Conference. In his 5th season at the helm of JCC's baseball team, Coach Northrop led the Cannoneers to their first Regional Baseball Tournament, 2nd seed, and wrapped up the season with a 26-19 record. Under Coach Northrop's leadership, new team records were set for runs scored, runs allowed, hits, triples and runs batted in.
JCC Athlete Makes the Most of her Commitment to College

Kate S. Gehrke, a 2012 graduate of Belleville Henderson, was headed for New York City, her cosmetology license in hand, to pursue her dream of working in the field of beauty when a little encouragement from her parents steered her towards college.

Committing to just two years of study and eligible for the Jefferson-Can Scholarship that offers free first-year tuition to students who rank in the top 15% of their graduating class, Kate applied to JCC. Having just completed her first year of college in the business administration degree program, she says “What I’ve learned at JCC has helped me to grow as an individual. It will be a really great thing to have a degree in business and I want that edge over the competition.”

Despite not planning to attend college originally, Kate dove right in almost immediately upon setting foot on JCC’s campus. Kate’s competitive spirit soared both on the field and in the classroom. As a freshman, she played for the women’s soccer and softball teams while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. During the spring semester, Kate was inducted in the Tau Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for community colleges, and received the First-Year Outstanding Student Award presented by the Enrollment Management and Student Life Division. She wrapped up the spring semester winning first place in the Cannoneer Fitness Competition.

Kate still plans to pursue her dream of working in the Big Apple and the knowledge she is gaining at Jefferson only increases her preparedness and potential. “I can apply the skills learned in my business classes right now to my personal life,” says Kate. Coined the “braid queen” by her teammates, she frequently styles hair for brides and wedding parties, stays current on the latest trends and tweets her nail designs to Seventeen magazine. In fact, Seventeen has retweeted at least one of her unique designs on Twitter.

Returning to JCC in the fall, Kate is looking forward to completing her degree, serving as co-captain of the women’s soccer team and playing softball in the spring. Kate will also be juggling a cosmetologist’s work schedule as she was recently hired by the Regis Hair Salon- yet another step to pursuing her long-term career goal of working in New York City.

When JCC baseball players were in the spotlight of this issue, many more of our athletes receive scholarships from private and SUNY 4-year colleges. Congratulations to all! We take pride in the success of all Jefferson athletes – past, present and future. Share your achievements with the JCC Alumni Association by sending an email to alumni@sunyjefferson.edu. Go neers!
Community Partnerships

‘Foundations in Business’ for BOCES Students

A partnership between Jefferson Community College and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) provides the opportunity for BOCES students to take JCC courses in business administration at a reduced tuition rate. Beginning in September, four ‘Foundations in Business’ courses, provided through Jefferson’s EDGE concurrent enrollment program, will be taught at the Charles H. Bohlen Technical Center in Watertown by credentialed BOCES instructor Arlene Burgess.

The Personal Finance, Spreadsheet Applications, Applied Business Math, and Intro to Entrepreneurship courses are available to students who register for BOCES programs in Applied Business Technology or Virtual Business. Jefferson EDGE tuition is one-third the rate of Jefferson’s regular tuition and fees. Books and supplies will be provided by BOCES.

For each course completed successfully, students will receive 3 college credits, a total of up to 12, which will be accepted by JCC and other academic institutions for transfer to an associate of applied science business administration degree. In addition to the jumpstart in college credit, students will benefit from the academic rigor they will experience as well as from development of the discipline and study skills needed to be successful in college.

Students who don’t pursue a college degree will gain valuable skills and knowledge in the fundamentals of business and personal finance.

For additional information, please contact Tracy Gyoerkoe at BOCES, 315-779-7200 or John Trumbell at JCC, 315-786-2309. High school students may also contact their guidance counselor.

Health Information Technology Training

On June, 17 students completed a six-month, 220-hour Health Information Technology (HIT) certificate training program offered through the Continuing Education Division at JCC. HIT makes it possible for health care providers to better manage patient care through secure use and sharing of health information and records. The HIT program is part of a partnership with Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO).

“We are thrilled to be able to give students, their employers and potential employers skills that are in-demand in the area’s healthcare community,” said Jill M. Pippin, dean for continuing education at JCC. “As local practitioners switch to using Electronic Health Records (EHRs), it is essential to have employees with the skill set to manage those EHRs through health information technology, which is where this program comes in.”

Students covered topics such as Networking and Health Information Exchange, Configuring EHRs, and Installation and Maintenance of Health IT Systems.

At the end of the course, students received a certificate of completion from JCC and will sit for two certification exams to attain nationally recognized HIT credentials.

For information about future HIT training at JCC, call Continuing Education at 315-786-2238.
Bachelor’s in Health Services Administration and Master’s of Social Work Now Available to North Country Community

The Higher Education Center initiative at Jefferson Community College continues to grow with the addition of two more degree programs now within reach of North Country residents. In March, Bryant & Stratton College came on board with a part-time baccalaureate program in health services administration. Most recently, Nazareth College and The College at Brockport brought their unique Greater Rochester Collaborative master of social work (M.S.W.) program to the Jefferson Higher Education Center (JHEC). The total number of program-specific bachelor’s degrees has grown to six and the number of master’s degrees to seven, along with the individualized bachelor’s degree program opportunities offered by SUNY Empire State College, available at the JHEC. All colleges are recruiting for the Fall 2014 semester.

"With the addition of the M.S.W. program, we can now provide a complete educational pathway for those just starting out as well as for seasoned human services professionals," said Jefferson president Carole A. McCoy. "A student can begin with Jefferson's associate's degree in human services, complete the bachelor's degree in social work from Keuka College and then pursue the master's degree offered by the College at Brockport in collaboration with Nazareth College – all on JCC's campus."

Bryant & Stratton College's health services administration bachelor's degree completion program is designed to provide a comprehensive base in the management of health services and facilities. "We are particularly excited about the opportunities this degree program brings to our region and to the Fort Drum community," said Dr. McCoy.

The Higher Education Center initiative at Jefferson Community College provides increased access to bachelor’s and advanced degrees and certifications for residents in the North Country region. Jefferson Higher Education Center partners provide collaborative educational offerings that benefit the region’s workforce and economic development. To learn more, contact Jill M. Pippin, dean for continuing education at JCC, 315-786-2238.

**Bachelor’s Degree Completion Programs**
- Business Administration, B.S.
- Criminal Justice Systems, B.S.
- Early Childhood: Birth to Age 5, B.S.
- Health Services Administration, B.S.
- Nursing, R.N.to B.S.
- Social Work, B.S.
- Individually designed degree programs (B.A., B.S., B.P.S.)

**Master’s Degree Programs**
- Childhood Education, M.S.T.
- Curriculum and Instruction, M.S.Ed.
- Literacy Specialist, M.S.Ed.
- Literacy Educator, M.S.Ed.
- Family Nurse Practitioner, M.S.
- Organizational Leadership, M.S.Ed.
- Psychiatric Mental Health Family Nurse Practitioner, M.S.
- Social Work, M.S.W.

Congratulations to these 16 Keuka College graduates who earned their bachelor’s in social work in May by taking classes at JCC’s Higher Education Center (JHEC). Of the 16 graduates, 15 are alumni of Jefferson and eight plan to continue with the Greater Rochester Collaborative M.S.W. program. This is Keuka’s second class of JHEC students. In 2012, ten Keuka College students graduated with bachelor’s degrees in criminal justice.
During the last year, the JCC Foundation pledged $10,000 to match donations to the Jefferson EDGE scholarship fund. Many individuals and organizations have contributed to the success of this challenge. These donors, who made gifts large and small, gave scholarships to high school students with financial need who took EDGE classes in their local high schools. These concurrent enrollment classes provide college credit that can give students advanced standing when they begin their college careers.

We are grateful to our contributors to the match. The Stewarts Holiday Match program contributed $1,750. We also appreciate smaller gifts—organizations that made donations to help students in their communities; individuals that made donations to cover a scholarship or two; JCC employees who made gifts through payroll deduction every two weeks. It all added up as EDGE scholarships were awarded to 37 students for the 2012-2013 academic year.

But one special contribution stands out, because it is the story of one student helping another.

Joe Principe, a veteran of the 10th Mountain Division, is an adult student who was studying at BOCES last fall. He learned that a classmate in his Personal Finance class could not afford to pay for the course in order to receive college credit through Jefferson’s EDGE program. When he heard about the Jefferson EDGE scholarship match, he offered to make a donation which, when doubled through the match, would provide his classmate with the opportunity to receive an EDGE scholarship. Both Joe and his classmate successfully completed the business course, each earning 3 college credits. Principe, who is now is now enrolled at Jefferson Community College, is glad he could assist another student in reaching his educational goals.

“As a retired, disabled veteran and full-time student, I don’t make all the money in the world,” said Principe. “But I like to give back a little in life, that’s my goal.”

In his classmate, Principe saw a young student with plenty of drive, motivation and commitment, but without an abundance of means, and he wanted to help. Principe hopes that one day “when he is in a position to do the same, (his classmate) will help someone the same way.”

Scholarships are critical for many students who need financial assistance to attend college. For the 2013-2013 academic year, the JCC Foundation administered 290 scholarships totaling nearly $300,000 in aid to 233 students. In April, many donors and scholarship recipients met for the first time at the annual JCC Foundation Scholars Reception. The Scholars Reception provided the opportunity for contributors to see how their philanthropy is distributed and for students to thank their benefactor in person. The Jefferson Gala, the largest annual fundraiser for the JCC Foundation, will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. See page 26 to learn more about the Jefferson Gala.
A message from Jefferson’s Alumni Association Director

The low rumble of diesel engines moving mountains of earth mixes with the summer sounds of birds and cicadas. An overgrown woodland on the top of a small hill has been uncovered to reveal the city below. Construction on the residence halls at Jefferson Community College has begun!

As Bob Dylan would say, “The Times They Are A-Changin.” Soon students will be able to experience a different kind of community college education. One that brings 24/7 activity to the Coffeen Street campus and gives students a greater opportunity to engage with their classmates in a living and learning community that is centered around student success.

This next year will be filled with challenges and changes. As the residence halls are being built, the campus will create new services and stimulating activities to support a vibrant resident life program. By August 2014, Jefferson will welcome its first residential students. Like the very first alumni class of 1964, these students will be pioneers who lead the way through a changing college environment. Will their experiences develop a strong connection with the College? Based on the enduring relationships we have with our alumni, the answer is sure to be a resounding YES!

Our alumni have been involved in every aspect of the residence hall project. Some through their positions here on campus, others through service on college boards, and even more who work out in the community. All these groups had to come together, working tirelessly over the last five years, to make the dream of residence halls a reality.

It is an exciting time on campus, to say the least, and the campus will most certainly change. But one thing that won’t change is the generosity of our alumni to help students attain their educational goals. Now those goals come with the opportunity to live on campus. What an enriching experience that will offer!

Mary Newman

2013 Distinguished Alumni Honored

In August, Jefferson Community College held its annual Distinguished Alumni and Cannoneer Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Watertown Elks Lodge. We honored and celebrated three exceptional alumni for their professional achievements and exemplary commitment to their community. Additionally, two new members were inducted into the Class of 2013 Cannoneer Hall of Fame for their outstanding athletic success and significant contributions to JCC’s athletic program (please see page 18 for details on these honorees).

The 2013 Distinguished Alumni honorees are Mrs. Evelyn (Beattie) Kormanik, Class of 1968, who received the Jeffersonian Award for her volunteerism, civic involvement, and humanitarian undertakings, along with Dr. John P. Clark, Class of 1986 and Dr. Stacey (Dunn) Zeigler, Class of 1992, who both received the Professional Achievement Award for significant professional growth and leadership abilities.

Evelyn Kormanik ’68, originally from Watertown and now residing on Staten Island, is the founder of the Staten Island Giving Circle, a large community outreach group dedicated to assisting the disadvantaged and underserved in the Staten Island community of New York. In 2012, she was named a Woman of Achievement by the Staten Island Advance.

Dr. John Clark ’86, originally from Watertown and now residing in Dayton, Ohio, is the principal aerospace engineer at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton. In 2012, he received the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineer of the Year award. Dr. Stacey Zeigler ’92, Hammond, New York, is a clinical associate professor at Clarkson University and owns her own business, Fun in Aging Physical Therapy, P.C., in Hammond.

If you wish to honor a distinguished alumnus or Cannoneer Hall of Fame member by making a gift to the Jefferson Community College Alumni Association, please call 315-786-2327.

JCC alumni serve the College in many different ways. Below is a list of some of the alumni who have served on College boards this past year, volunteering their time and talent to help shape the future of Jefferson.

David Shampine, ’68
Nancy Brown, ’69 & ’93
Jane Gendron, ’73
Cindy Shelmidine, ’73 & ’82
Joel LaLone, ’81
MaryLu Moriarty, ’81
Joseph L. Thesier, ’81
Jody LaLone, ’85
Jack Donato, ’87
Scott Pooler, ’88
Amy B. Gruner, ’89
Gregory J. Powlin, ’89
Michelle (Sabre) Farrell, ’94
Michelle Capone, ’95
Pamela Dixon, ’00
Yvonne Brown, ’01
Adrienne DeMiceli, ’01
Warren Fargo, ’01 & ’03
Nathan Hunter, ’01
Chris Anderson, ’06
Jared Federman, ’06
April Halladay, ’06
Mike Perry, ’08
Peggy Sepko, ’08

(1 to r) Dr. John Clark, Dr. Stacey Zeigler, Evelyn Kormanik, Steven Brown
**Alumni Class Notes**

**John D. Peck ’02** is still operating the family dairy farm in nearby Great Bend. He is also the Jefferson County Legislator for District 7 where he serves on the Health & Human Services Committee and the Planning & Development Committee. He and his wife, Marie, have two children, John is four and Silas is one.

Sergeant Major Cielito B. (McWhorter) Pascual-Jackson ’92 is currently the Command Career Counselor for the U.S. Army Pacific at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. She graduated with honors from Touro University in 2002 with a degree in international finance and is a 2008 graduate of the prestigious United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. SGM Jackson is married to (Ret) Louis Jackson and their daughter, Porsché, is attending the University of Hawaii. Cielito attended JCC while she was stationed at Fort Drum from 1985 to 1992 and loves reading the *Jefferson Insider* to keep track of how the College is changing.

Sue (Suzanne Simser) Farrell ’65 has become one of the North Country’s snowbirds, spending her winters in Citrus Springs, Florida and her summers on Point Salubrious with her grandchildren. Retired from the NYS Department of Corrections where she was an educational supervisor, this graduate of JCC’s first class received a bachelor’s in education from SUNY Albany, a master’s in education from SUNY Potsdam and a master’s in administration from SUNY Oswego. Her son is a graduate of SUNY Canton and her daughter graduated from Wells College and Syracuse University.

Jerry Zoanetti ’98 is now a full-time biology instructor here at JCC. He spent 10 years teaching biology & physical science in the Watertown City School District and since 2003 has been an adjunct biology instructor at JCC. He received his associate’s in math/science from Jefferson, a bachelor’s degree in biology from SUNY Oswego and his M.S.T. in biology from SUNY Potsdam. Jerry recently made a major change in hairstyle so he may be unrecognizable to many returning to campus this fall!

Nathan Hunter ’01 is extremely involved in community activities, both professionally and personally. He is a Jefferson Leadership Institute alum and treasurer on the JCC Foundation Board of Directors. A Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner, he is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, the New York State Society of CPAs, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He is the Vice President for Accounting and Finance at Northern Federal Credit Union and a manager of a third-generation family apartment business in Watertown. After receiving an A.S. in business administration from JCC, Nate received both a B.S. in accounting and a M.B.A. from SUNY Oswego.

Kelly (Castillo) Alvarado ’06/07 took a well-deserved vacation to Paris before beginning her new job as the area coordinator/assistant director for the Office of Residence Life at Manhattan College on July 1. She graduated with her M.A. in student development administration this past June from Seattle University. Kelly reports she is glad to be back on the east coast and close to family.

Ian Thomas Ash ’98, one of Jefferson’s Distinguished Alumni (2007 Rising Star), is making news again. His new documentary ‘A2-B-C,’ a film about children in Fukushima who are developing thyroid cysts and nodules, made its North American debut at the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIff) in August. This film is a follow-up to ‘In the Grey Zone’, which received two awards at the RIIFF last year.

Our alumni rock! Tasha (Natasha) Williams ’01 won first place on the Bravo Channel’s The Kandi Factory this spring with her passionate version of “Rock Bottom.” You may remember her taking great photos for the Cannon newspaper and yearbook, or singing her heart out in the local band Top Secret. She’s always been a star to us and now she’s a star to millions of fans! Check it out on YouTube.

Dave Shampine ’68 retired in March after nearly 42 years reporting and writing for the *Watertown Daily Times*. A great friend of Jefferson, Dave has been involved in the Alumni Association and has supported Jefferson athletics for years. A noted local author, he has received many awards, and the one he claims to be most proud of is the Distinguished Alumni - Professional Achievement Award he received from JCC in 2007.

Congratulations to Jane Gendron ’73, executive director of the American Red Cross Community Chapter of Northern New York, who received the 2012 Macsherry Family Community Spirit Award at the United Way Campaign Celebration Luncheon in March.

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**A message from Lisi Fredriksen, Class of 2009**

“In my twenty-three years, I have been fortunate enough to build an incredible community all over the world, and I am excited to share with you the new adventure I am about to embark on.

From a young age, I have been fascinated by and felt called to Africa. What a beautiful and resilient continent! While her economy, government, resources and, most of all, her people have been deeply affected by conflict, I knew both then and now that God has great plans for this place. I wanted to make an impact there, but I lived so far away. Five years ago, I made a monthly commitment to sponsor and correspond with a young Ghanaian boy, Suleman. My heart and vision for Africa continued to expand in the process.

After much thought and prayer, I recently decided to apply to an amazing worldwide organization called Youth with a Mission, which has a base in Ghana. It was a natural fusion between an organization that my family has had a long connection with (we lived on a base in the Netherlands for years) and my desire to more personally impact Africa. Currently operating in over 180 countries, YWAM was formed in 1960 to give young people the opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus to the whole world. They train and equip people to convey the message of the gospel and care for those in need. I am thrilled to report that I received a letter of acceptance from them in May to join their Discipleship Training School (DTS) in Kumasi, Ghana. The DTS is a full time residential training course that combines classroom teaching with ongoing discipleship and practical outreach service to the community. During this time I will learn about the culture, people and rich history of Africa, and most importantly pinpoint how I can most effectively help.”

Lisi traveled to Ghana in July and will be staying through the end of November. We look forward to hearing from Lisi upon her return to the North Country.

*Lisi Gendron*
Last year, the Jefferson Community College Foundation signature fundraiser, Jefferson Gala, raised nearly $40,000 which helps aid the organization’s effort to offer more than 290 scholarships totaling $300,000 each year to students. This year’s event, featuring honorary co-chairs Karen & David Clark, will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. in the McVean Gymnasium. There are No Limits to the fun you’ll have on the dance floor when you get down to music from Atlas. There are No Limits to the gratitude the College has for its generous donors! There are No Limits to the help provided a student in pursuit of earning a degree! What would you do if you had No Limits? Share your response on Facebook at SUNY Jefferson Gala and your answer may be used at the Gala!

To become an event sponsor or for a table sponsorship, call the JCC Foundation at 315-786-2458. Jefferson Gala tickets go on sale in September.

Major underwriting for this event is provided by Car Freshner. Sponsors are M&T Bank, Tunes 92.5 and Community Broadcasters. Additional support is provided by WWNY TV 7 and WNYF Fox 28, Newzjunky, Watertown Daily Times and The Events Company.

Blair Kiernan ’09, graduated from Syracuse with an MSW this May and accepted a position even before she graduated. She is now a school counselor in the Central Square school district and shares an apartment with fellow alum and JCC soccer teammate Ashley Lothrop ’09. While she loves living in the Syracuse area and her new job, she says she misses, “everything about JCC!!!! …the breakfast burritos and home fries, soccer trips, working in student activities, attending class (most of the time - ha ha), sitting in the lounge for hours and all the teachers!!! Seriously, after being at one of the top colleges in the country, I would have to say I had some of the best professors at JCC.”

Jefferson takes great pride in the achievements and success of our alumni! Your alumni association wants to hear from you and to share your news with your fellow Cannoneers. Have you received a promotion? Landed a new job? Won an award? Started a business? Maybe you recently got married or had a child? Let us know!

Contact Your Alumni Association
Robert E. Lansing Building, Room 1-115
315-786-2327 • alumni@sunyjefferson.edu
Like us on Facebook.com/SUNYJeffersonAlumni
Dr. Venkat Chebolu has taught chemistry at Jefferson Community College since 1993. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Bombay, a master’s of science from the Indian Institute of Technology, and his doctorate from Stony Brook University. Professor Chebolu is often seen riding his bike to campus and is well known for his soft spoken, keen sense of humor and penchant for chemistry experiments that make loud noises and ‘blow things up’. This summer, we put Dr. Chebolu in the spotlight.

**Who most influenced your career?** My career was most influenced by my dad. He was a scientist in the Discipline of Analytical Chemistry and he worked for the Indian Atomic Energy Agency. His role in the program made me very proud. He would help his students and my elder siblings with chemistry at home. All this talk of chemistry got me interested in it. As a freshman college student, the chemistry lab activity truly fascinated me and when I came home, I just had to analyze the results and discuss them with my dad as soon as I got home. It was nice to have him around to engage him with chemistry.

**What is your favorite annual campus activity and why?** National Chemistry Week is easily my most favorite activity on campus. Helping it launch on campus and then see it grow over the years is very satisfying. National Chemistry Week is now a “household” name on campus. It helps chemistry students demonstrate the skills they have learned in the labs to the JCC community at large.

**What is your favorite book?** Open: An Autobiography by Andre Agassi

**If you could travel anywhere, what would be your destination?** I would like to travel to a tennis grand slam event in Australia or Paris or London. I have been to the U.S. Open.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching chemistry?** The ‘aha moments’ of chemistry, particularly in the lab, helping students see, notice or realize what’s happening in their test tubes or their reaction vessels. How to draw conclusions from what one observes. When a student’s light bulb goes on, it reminds me of JCC’s motto - so more may be enlightened. I like to see students making sense of the concepts.

**What do you like most about JCC?** Jefferson has been my dream come true. It has meant everything for me. JCC has supported and encouraged me to explore all my ideas whether it was switching to micro scale chemistry labs overnight, bringing National Chemistry Week to campus, writing grants for new instruments, doing research with students good enough for publication, or offering a chemistry class online.

**What is something you consider unique about yourself that others might not know or be surprised to learn?** I am not a good reader. I need to read a book multiple times to reasonably understand it. I probably need to enroll in Leah Deasy’s CLS 101 Critical College Reading Skills class.

**What is your most significant professional accomplishment?** Getting an article published in the Journal of Chemical Education was very satisfying. Finding new ways to teach a concept that has been around forever was a glorious moment in my teaching endeavors. Getting a student right here at JCC to produce work of this quality and then convincing my peers in chemical education that this technique of teaching needs to see light of day for the rest of the world to potentially adopt, ranks at the top of my accomplishment list.

**What is your most significant personal accomplishment?** Raising two daughters with exceptional work ethic.

**Who is your favorite superhero and why?** Roger Federer for being at the top of the tennis world for so long. His demeanor whether winning or losing, the class with which he appears to carry himself, his fluency of French, English and Swedish.

**If you could give your students one piece of advice to carry throughout their lives, what would it be?** In this constantly changing job market, students need to diversify their skills. They need to have their eggs in a lot of baskets. Being able to shift gears in an ever-changing job market is crucial to being successful. So, one needs to get away from using college to develop only one job skill. Students need to keep all their options open and try to learn as many diverse disciplines as they can get their hands on.
Our Vision

*Jefferson Community College will be a dynamic educational leader, transforming lives and our community.*

Our Mission

*Learning is the focus of Jefferson Community College. Through excellence in teaching, innovative services, and community partnerships, the College advances the quality of life of our students and community.*