

SUNY BROOME

ALUMNI MAGAZINE • Spring 2016

From Campus...
TO A CAREER





President's MESSAGE

We really love spring at SUNY Broome because that's the season for graduation, when another class of Hornets leaves the hive to further find their way in the world. It's an incredibly optimistic time, one that highlights not only individual success, but the collective growth of our college community.

In the past seven years, our academic community has undergone incredible change with new programs, a new Natural Science Center and on-campus housing. And we continue that transformation. Just a few weeks ago, a retired local dentist – Dr. Richard Bedosky – donated an airplane (yes, an airplane!), which will allow us to pursue FAA approval for a new Aircraft Maintenance Degree. Our high-tech business incubator is also taking shape in downtown Binghamton, where we'll have a floor of our own to foster student entrepreneurship.

Just around the corner from the incubator, we're planning to renovate the historic Carnegie Library, turning it into our own downtown center and a home for our future culinary program. Back on campus the Mechanical Building, home to so many of our technical and engineering programs, also will be undergoing an exciting renovation that you'll hear more about soon.

While it still has the SUNY Broome feel, campus looks a lot different these days – and so, appropriately enough, does our magazine. With this issue, we're unveiling a fresh new design that we hope you'll enjoy.

We invite you to read about the SUNY Broome alumnus Dan Babcock ('84 BA), who is the founder and CEO of a rapidly growing direct marketing and brand management company located here in the Southern Tier; two current students who are making change on a global scale; our new Dean of Health Sciences; and the impact the \$500 million Upstate Revitalization Initiative will have on our region and our campus. We also invite you to explore our new digital X-ray technology, which will train the next generation of radiologic technicians; our beautiful Nature Preserve (just in time for that springtime stroll); athletics accomplishments both past and current – and more!

May you have a happy and healthy summer, and we look forward to bringing you our next edition of BROOME in the fall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin E. Drumm".

Kevin E. Drumm, PhD
President, SUNY Broome Community College

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BROOME Magazine Spring 2016

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[Focus]

ON STUDENTS

Changing the World: Nosa Akol takes aim at global hunger

She may call Binghamton home, but Nosa Akol's desire to make a difference transcends national boundaries.

Her vehicle of transformation: agriculture, a field she developed a passion for through her involvement with 4-H and the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Broome County.

"I can do so much more in the agricultural field. Providing food is so essential," said Akol, a native of South Sudan whose family emigrated to Binghamton when she was five. "It's something that can change somebody's life for the better."

A graduate of Binghamton High School, Nosa has been heavily involved in CITIZEN U, a civic engagement program through 4-H and the CCE. She won the 2015 4-H Youth in Action Award and served as a delegate at the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute, as well as interned as a biological science aide at the Robert W. Holley Center for Agriculture and Health at Cornell University, attended the Norman Borlaug Symposium as a panelist, and served as keynote speaker at 4-H Career Explorations at Cornell University.

A Liberal Arts – Science major, she plans to transfer to Cornell after finishing her year at SUNY Broome. Ultimately, she hopes to help women and children in the developing world create sustainable agriculture-based microbusinesses.

"Women in developing countries are the ones giving back," she said, noting that microbusinesses would help

bring income to their families. "I really like agriculture and I also like business. Why not combine the two?"

She had the opportunity to put her passion to work in January, when she and 19 other students boarded an airplane bound for Haiti as part of SUNY Broome's 2016 global service learning course there. Nosa's participation was made possible by a \$1,500 scholarship, awarded by the Endwell Rotary Club and Rotary International.

Nosa's interest in agriculture fit in well with this year's Health for Haiti trip, which included a community garden component. The program has acquired land in the village it serves, and residents have already planted corn, melons and beans.

Professor Jennifer Musa, who created the Health for Haiti program with Dental Hygiene Program Chair Maureen Hankin, reached out to Nosa for her expertise.

"I do not have a lot of gardening experience, so this is new to me! Once we started talking about doing it, I've never had a project move this quickly before," Dr. Musa said of the garden project. "I'm thrilled to have Nosa

here, especially with her interest in agriculture. The timing was perfect.”

When she entered high school, agriculture never crossed Nosa’s mind. The eldest of six children, she had been considering a career in law enforcement – perhaps as an FBI agent – as a way to protect others. During her freshman year of high school, she joined CITIZEN U, with the hope that it would nurture her career goals.

Instead, she found her interests changing and expanding in scope. “CITIZEN U got me out of my comfort zone,” she explained.

Through the program, she improved her local community, planting trees and flowers in a local park and spearheading the Great Pothole Solution Project, which used GIS and GPS to map potholes throughout Binghamton; CITIZEN U teen leaders then presented their remediation plan to city officials.

She served as Broome County’s delegate to 4-H Capital Days in Albany, where she met state legislators. She helped design and carry out two health and wellness projects at Binghamton’s Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, where more than 57 percent of students are at risk of childhood obesity.

Research internships through Cornell, meeting with international leaders during World Food Day, serving on a Hunger Task Force through CCE and The United Way – Nosa Akol has a long list of accomplishments, and remains heavily involved in CITIZEN U.

“All of these experiences and honors have focused Nosa’s resolve to find solutions to ending global poverty and supporting the human rights on underserved women and children, especially in her native country of South Sudan,” CCE-Broome’s Dr. June Mead, State Project Director for Children, Youth and Families, wrote in a recent letter of recommendation.

Nosa chose SUNY Broome because it’s close to home, and offered a wide variety of interesting programs.

“I can take advantage of a lot of SUNY programs, too, that travel,” she said.

At Cornell, Nosa plans to major in international agricultural and rural development – and dedicate her life to making a difference.

“As a native of South Sudan, I am acutely aware of the lack of opportunities and injustices faced by young women living in poverty in a war-torn country,” she wrote in her Health for Haiti application. “But regardless of where my education and career goals lead me, I want to help others and fight global hunger.” 🌍



Above: SV Resident Michaela Simmons donating blood.

Student Village Residents give back – by giving blood

Needles and blood aren’t exactly what most people would consider a “good time.” However, it was all smiles and good spirits at SUNY Broome’s October blood drive, held in the first floor Student Village classroom. There was a large turnout as students — both eager and nervous — were ready to be a part of something that could save another’s life.

Every 2 seconds, someone in the United States needs blood, according to the American Red Cross. More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day. The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately three pints. With one pint of blood, you can save up to three lives!

By the numbers, the Student Village drive collected 16 units – potentially saving up to 48 lives.

Makayla Eaton, a SUNY Broome student and Student Village resident, has donated blood multiple times. “When my grandmother was alive, she had to get multiple transfusions,” she explained. “Those people who donated blood helped save her life, and I want to do that for someone else.”

Another resident gave a reason for donating: “I want to help others. To know what I have in my body can actually give someone a second chance is very fulfilling.”

The donors – who gave blood voluntarily, out of the kindness of their hearts — were amazing.

Writer Samantha Figueroa is a SUNY Broome student.



[Focus]

ON STUDENTS

Change Maker: Morgan Wood goes to Paris

Delegates from around the world gathered in Paris from Nov. 30 through Dec. 11 to hammer out a landmark climate change accord. And along with world leaders came a wide array of activists, environmentalists and other interested parties, who engaged in protests, demonstrations and discussions of all types in the French capital, hoping to make their voices heard on an issue that affects populations worldwide.

Among them was a Hornet: SUNY Broome student Morgan Wood, who attended the 2015 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference as part of an internship with Citizens Climate Lobby.

“They had a Pathway to Paris initiative through the UN Your World campaign. It’s become a citizen engagement network,” explained Wood, a first-year Binghamton Advantage Program (BAP) student and Liberal Arts major.

Background in Global Nonprofits

Originally from Endicott, Wood already thinks on a global scale and has been involved with a number of nonprofits. She completed a community internship with the United Nations Foundation, and is currently the Upstate New York Coalition Director for Girl Up, a nonprofit she first became involved with as a sophomore at Maine-Endwell High School.

Girl Up is the United Nations Foundation’s adolescent girl campaign, and helps girls living in Guatemala, Liberia, Malawi, Ethiopia and India receive equal opportunities for education. The organization is

supported by school clubs, such as the one at Maine-Endwell, that encourage girls to become voices for their less-advantaged peers overseas. Girl Up currently has more than 1,000 clubs registered in 43 U.S. states and 51 countries.

“We advocate against child marriage, for healthcare and family planning, and everything equality,” explained Wood, who became a teen advisor for the group during her senior year of high school. “Our motto is, ‘Every girl, no matter where she is born, deserves to dream.’”

As the New York Coalition Director, she works with multiple area clubs. She’s helping organize Girl Up’s fourth annual 5K run in Otsiningo Park, working with clubs from Union-Endicott, Maine-Endwell and Vestal. The run, which is certified by the Triple Cities Running Club, drew 100 participants last year.

In addition to Girl Up, Wood sat on the Maine-Endwell school board as a student member and served on a Youth Advisory Panel for the New York State Board of Education. She has also worked with the CARE Action Network, and currently serves as secretary for the State University of New York Student Assembly. (Fun fact: the SUNY Student Assembly President, Tom Mastro, is a SUNY Broome graduate.)

With her drive to help others and her list of accomplishments, it’s no surprise that Wood found herself in Paris, amid the action.

“It’s my life; it’s what I do,” she said of her multi-faceted work.

Below: Morgan Wood in Paris



In Paris

During her time in Paris, Wood interviewed event participants for the Citizens Climate Lobby and helped launch a test run of an app that allows citizens to comment on the document produced by conference negotiators.

“It brings people into these closed door conversations; it gives them a say in the conversation,” Wood explained. “The conferences and their success depend on the participation of other people. It’s the first year in recent memory that citizens were able to express their voice.”

The conference had different zones; the Green Zone, where Wood and her colleagues worked, was open to the public and filled with all sorts of event-goers, from social media stars to representatives from nonprofits and environmentalists from around the world. Protests went on both inside and out, with chants in three languages punctuating the air.

Wood particularly appreciated the chance to see and interact with people from an array of different cultures. She found the event fascinating, colorful and ultimately hopeful.

“Even though there were language barriers, you were ultimately able to communicate with people,” Wood recalled.

While it may not seem immediately evident, her experience at the Paris climate talks dovetails with her work with Girl Up. Why? In many countries, women and girls are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. Scarce resources can lead to violence, reverse education gains, endanger access to potable water — leading to longer and more dangerous walks for women and girls, who are often tasked with providing water, and also leading to increases in child marriage.

“With climate change, the people who are most vulnerable will face the consequences much sooner than countries which are more developed. It causes violence and disruption in countries,” said Wood, who said she is writing an exposé on how climate change impacts women and girls.

While she is a passionate advocate and organizer, Morgan Wood is also a student — and her classwork remains a priority. The Paris talks occurred during the Fall 2015 semester, and she worked closely with her SUNY Broome instructors to make sure she kept up with assignments. A firm believer in time management, she completed many of her assignments

ahead of time — which allowed her to miss classes for nearly two weeks.

“I like how Broome is smaller; it feels more inclusive,” she said of her Broome experience. “With the smaller class size, you know everybody.”

The future

As a BAP student, Morgan eventually plans to transfer to Binghamton University, where she will major in international studies with a minor in women and gender studies. Her dream job would be at the United Nations, but she’s also working on starting her own nonprofit with her partner from the Paris trip.

“It would be in sustainable development; the goal would be to educate the populace about the sustainable development goals presented in 2015,” she said.

SUNY is already on board, and has pledged to serve as a model and leader in the advancement of research, education and community development for sustainable practices in New York and across the nation.

The SUNY Student Assembly passed a resolution in September, recommending that all 64 campuses align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Schools in the SUNY system — including SUNY Broome — are among the 318 colleges and universities to sign onto the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge, launched by the White House. SUNY has also vowed to reduce carbon emissions from 1990 levels by 30 percent, install renewable and clean energy generation at all of its campuses and reduce overall energy use by 20%, all by the year 2020.

These measures not only build a healthier environment and more sustainable culture, they also inspire students to adopt a more global perspective and view themselves as citizens of the world.

“It’s a way to make sure all SUNY students will have an opportunity to have a global experience without leaving the campus,” Wood said. 🌍



[Focus]

ON ALUMNI

CHANGING THE WAY THE WORLD MARKETS & SELLS: How SUNY Broome's Dan Babcock built a company – and a community

In high school, many young men dream of futures on the baseball diamond or the grass turf of a football field.

Not Dan Babcock. After classes at Union-Endicott High School, he headed to his job at the local Giant supermarket. It was there, amid the cash registers and stocked shelves, that he determined his future path.

“I didn’t want to be a sports star. I wanted to be Mr. Akel,” he recollected, referring to the family that owned the local grocery chain.

The SUNY Broome graduate knew early on that he wanted to become an entrepreneur, a career he has pursued with determination and innovation. When he was just 21 years old, he founded Modern Marketing Concepts (MMC), a fast-growing company with offices in both Binghamton and Denver – and plans that will transform the Southern Tier.

“Dan is just amazing; he’s is an energetic entrepreneur and we are very proud that he is among our accomplished alumni,” said SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm, comparing Babcock to the founder of Amazon. “Dan is so engaging, and what a visionary industry leader he is.”

It’s an apt comparison. At MMC, Babcock encourages his employees to imagine “What would Amazon do?” – WWAD for short – to imagine how the massive online retailer would look at selling a product.

Local roots

The son of an IBM engineer and a nurse, Babcock didn’t particularly stand out in the classroom. He finished at the bottom half of his class, he candidly admits, and knew he never wanted to work for anyone else. His parents also stressed self-reliance, emphasizing that Babcock had to make his own way in the world.

He headed to SUNY Broome – then known as Broome Community College – where he juggled his education with employment, just as many students do today. While majoring in business, he worked more than 30 hours a week at local establishments, including Chuck E. Cheese – and yes, he did spend some time in the famous costume.

“Attending Broome was a simple decision for me. I got two years of a good, accessible education while still holding down a job,” he explained.

Two business professors he remembers fondly are Salvatore Julian and Richard Behr, both of whom still teach at the college. He learned a lot from them about business and accounting, he remembered.

Babcock also met his wife, Lisa, at Broome – their first date was at Chuck E. Cheese – and took advantage of the college’s transfer opportunities to complete his bachelor’s degree at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Along the way, he completed an internship at IBM that taught him an important lesson: he never wanted to work in corporate America, he recounted.

Professor Behr remembers Babcock as an outstanding student with a mind geared toward the business world. After his former student completed his studies at RIT, he brought his business plan to Behr and asked what he thought.

“I thought it was an impressive idea!” Behr said. “He related to me how his professor at the transfer school did not think the business would be successful. Of course, the professor was dead wrong.”

It turns out that the idea – the seed of Modern Marketing Concepts – was quite successful indeed.

Building on an idea

Back in the 1980s, supply and demand was still the rule in the marketplace, with the retailer playing middleman between the factory and the consumer. Talking with one of his RIT professors, Babcock learned about direct marketing, a model that allows consumers to build relationships directly with the providers of goods and services. A good example of this is Dell, which allowed customers to purchase computers directly from the company, eliminating the need to visit a physical store.

“All the relationships that used to be conducted through established channels have been disrupted, and now the customer defines where and when the interaction happens,” he explained.

A spark was lit, and Babcock sprang into action. At the age of 21, he quit at lunch after only six months at his day job. He then started Modern Marketing Concepts, with the help of a \$7,500 loan from M&T Bank, cosigned by his father.

He describes MMC as a customer-relationship management company that works with world-class brands specializing in building products and healthcare.

The first three years were brutal, as the new CEO learned the ins and outs of hiring, management, legal contracts – and keeping the lights on.

“The cool thing about starting from nothing is that you learn everything about running a business,” he said.

Through the years, MMC has grown from five employees to more than 300 today. The company exemplifies a team-oriented approach to business, encouraging employees both to take ownership of their careers and explore ways to innovate in an ever-changing world.

“Disruption is a key to continued success,” Babcock explained. Companies who seek only to maintain their current level of prosperity

and achievement become disrupted by those who seek different approaches to solving problems and addressing customer needs. That’s why Babcock continues to create and invest in additional business, such as Motili, which is based in Denver.

MMC employees built the technology that powers Motili, a service that connects large property owners – think of hotels, commercial properties and multi-unit residential complexes, for example – with local contractors who can undertake the repair work. Nearly 50 people are currently working on that project, Babcock said.

Modern Marketing Concepts is also considering an expansion that is expected to create nearly 600 new, full-time jobs over the next five years. Part of that involves creative office space that will appeal to younger workers by offering a wide variety of amenities to foster teamwork and productivity.

“I didn’t want to be a sports star. I wanted to be Mr. Akel,” he recollected, referring to the family that owned the local grocery chain.



Building Binghamton's future

Modern Marketing Concepts has another connection to local history: the pride that residents felt in their community and, by extension, their employer. Babcock thinks on the Endicott–Johnson workers of yore, who felt immense pride to be a part of EJ and the Southern Tier. On the surface, the company was just making shoes, but it was also building a mindset.

Of course, the Binghamton area can't go back to being a company town as it was in the heyday of IBM, Babcock conceded. In a sense, that reliance on a single major employer led to the region's economic erosion – even before IBM pulled out many of its operations. The region fragmented into fiefdoms, leading to a lack of leadership and support for the next generation of businesses. The entrepreneurs of the day left Endicott – and headed west, where they founded companies in Silicon Valley, Babcock recounted.

It's also unrealistic to fashion Binghamton solely into a college town. While the region's educational institutions – SUNY Broome, Binghamton University and Davis College – draw young and talented students to the region, they need a reason to stay.

Instead, Binghamton's foundation for the future will rely on for-profit businesses that provide opportunities to the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs. By working together, local colleges and businesses can train the employees of tomorrow, scrubbing the tarnish off the Southern Tier.

“SUNY Broome and Modern Marketing Concepts are both hidden secrets, but we also live in a town that is a gem, a hidden secret,” said Babcock.

In a way, revitalizing Binghamton is a bit like mining for gold or gems, he mused. The value is already here – good schools, educational opportunities, location. A few hours' drive will take you to New York City metro area, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington DC and more. And while local residents may gripe about the taxes, the region is very affordable. Business buildings cost less than homes in the larger metropolitan areas, Babcock points out.

“When's the best time to buy a stock? When it's low but has a run in it. We're that stock,” he said. “Our community's demise is because of vision, not taxes. There's a huge opportunity for students to stay, live and work, but you have to cultivate that.”

According to Babcock, to mine the region's gold, you need to clear the debris: an attitude that clings to the

“We want to be the first building in town that people look at and go ‘wow,’” Babcock said. “I grew up in an IBM family; I want to connect the IBM country club reality with the same place you work. It's going to be world class.”

While physical buildings can be eye-catching, building a culture is even more important. With initiatives such as MMC University, the company trains personnel with no industry experience and certifies them in 18 months to pursue outside sales careers. Employees – many of whom are SUNY Broome graduates – are given coaching, training and job enrichment, and are encouraged to take ownership of their careers.

Ultimately, Babcock believes in marrying college with practical education, building a culture of human capital that benefits employer and employee alike. In an era of increasing automation, young people are often nervous about their career futures. At MMC, automation – mostly in the form of data – is used to create jobs in the digital sphere, sales and more.

“It's really about our team. We work together, we play together, and as a company we succeed or fail together,” Babcock said. “We're very bullish on the next five years.”

Babcock adds that the college has been a tremendous feeder for the company. Nearly 50 employees are SUNY Broome alumni.

“When the graduates come out with a core foundation, we are ahead of the game,” he explained. “The students seem to have a hunger, a willingness to learn, and they adopt our culture of ‘figuring it out, doing the right things right and getting it done today.’ They are eager to start their career and aspire to reach their full potential.”

past and neglects the future one, that focuses only on problems and not possibilities. Communities are grown a job at a time, and jobs are grown by building value to both customers and employees.

“Start making today better than yesterday. Do whatever you need to do to get out of where you are,” he advised. “Our issue is a mindset, a spine angle issue.”

Tomorrow’s leaders

In order to build a brighter economic future, the region needs to teach and train the next generation of business people and entrepreneurs. While SUNY Broome and Binghamton University play an important role in that process, so does Modern Marketing Concepts in the form of the Greater Binghamton Scholastic Challenge.

Now in its sixth year, the competition draws area high school students, who display their business ideas in a trade show-style presentation and pitch them to a panel of local business leaders. Winners receive scholarship money to start their businesses or use for college. The competition currently draws around 175 participants and has grown every year since its inception.

MMC funds the competition and staffs it with mentors, who guide the participants as they explore business plans and other tools of the entrepreneur’s trade. For several years, the competition was coordinated by a SUNY Broome alumna: Babcock’s daughter Danielle, who graduated from SUNY Broome with a business degree in 2013 and from Boston University with a degree in advertising last December. Danielle is currently running a similar competition in the Boston area, and had coordinated the Binghamton challenge while she was still a student at SUNY Broome.

Her studies in business administration complemented her role with the local entrepreneurship challenge, she said. She looks upon her time at SUNY Broome fondly, and appreciated her professors and advisors for their impact on her education and accomplishments.

As the oldest of three sisters, she was the first to choose her college path. While she was accepted into RIT, she didn’t feel ready to leave home yet and decided to pursue a more local option. One of her high points at SUNY Broome: studying abroad in Florence, Italy.

“SUNY Broome provided me with a really good foundation and started me in the direction I wanted to go,” she said. “I really did have a great experience and I owe a lot to them for what I have today.”

Dream big

Going forward, Modern Marketing Concepts will continue to evolve. According to Babcock, it’s becoming more of a data company these days, combining “people,

process and technology” as it manages its customers’ relationships.

What stays the same is the company’s culture, the bedrock upon which it is built. And it’s that culture – which continues whether the CEO is in the room or not – which fuels its success, according to Babcock.

“My dream is that the customer flies to Binghamton, New York, and finds something they can’t find anywhere else in the world,” Babcock said.

Back at his old alma mater, former mentors are viewing Babcock’s vision with pride. Professor Behr remembered reading an article about MMC and its founder a few years back.

“I thought it was an impressive company poised for huge growth. I remember saying that MMC could become as big an employer as the old IBM (in Endicott,” he remembered. “(They’re) not quite that big yet, but knowing Dan, they will probably get there.” 🌐



Above and Below: SUNY Broome alumni working at MMC



[Focus]

ON FACULTY



Changing Directions: SUNY Broome welcomes new Dean of Health Sciences

When Amy Brandt first considered her future, healthcare wasn't part of the score. Rather, the Los Angeles-area native practiced for hours on the French horn, envisioning a career in music – perhaps in an orchestra pit, watching the conductor's baton.

But the culture changed, and classical music no longer seemed a way to make a living as fine arts budgets were slashed around the country. Unsure of what to do, she decided against the conservatory, opting instead for the University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA), where she studied English.

English? French horn?

"It does seem odd," SUNY Broome's new Dean of Health Sciences and Distance Education agreed, as she sat in her office at the top of the Decker Health Sciences building. "After my undergraduate years I was ready to work. I never envisioned myself getting a Ph.D.; that wasn't the plan. I had trained to be a classical musician."

You may not imagine a Health Sciences dean coming from a background in literature or music, but then, you probably haven't met Dr. Brandt. And in a sense, perhaps it's fitting that the associate vice president who will oversee a changing department has undergone transformations of her own – and in a way that would likely be familiar to many current college students.

With her bachelor's degree in English completed, Dr. Brandt was eager to get into the work world – but unsure what career to pursue.

"I can't explicate epic poems for a living," she quipped.

She found herself working for a chair of radiology, helping coordinate his research activities and a hospital residency program. That's how she ended up in healthcare, and she found she enjoyed it. Her next stop was working for a chair of emergency medicine in Baltimore, a mentor who pushed her young employee to figure out a path of study. Brandt, who was interested in human behavioral health, chose social work. She headed back west, earning her master's at Cal State — Sacramento and her doctorate at UCLA.

After earning her doctorate, she ended up working as a program coordinator for UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare – and found herself at a crossroads. Would she pursue a research career, or try to make her mark in another way? A position opened up for a healthcare dean at Napa Valley College in northern California – and she took it.

"I decided I really wanted to have an impact. You can do that through research, but it's a very long drawn-

out process and it's a real crapshoot whether you're researching the right topics at the right time," she explained.

After three and a half years there, she became director of Health Sciences and Curriculum Management for Corinthian Colleges and then dean of Academic Affairs & Operations for South University in Florida. But she missed the public system. With her husband traveling for work, she decided to follow her career to the Gulf Coast, becoming dean of Vocational Instruction for Wharton County Junior College in Texas. The Wharton position gave Brandt the opportunity to learn about traditional vocational education – from petrochemicals to the police academy, nursing and emergency medical technicians. She joked that she learned she should never be a welder, because “things catch fire.”

But healthcare remained central to her interests. When the dean position opened up at SUNY Broome, nearly two years after she started at Wharton, she took the leap.

Some of the reasons were personal. In a few years, her husband will retire, and upstate New York puts him closer to his family. Although they loved the people they met in Texas, life on the Gulf Coast – with its famous heat and humidity – wasn't for them. SUNY Broome's administration seemed forward-thinking, and willing to tackle the challenges in the changing healthcare field.

And, of course, it was centered in healthcare – a field she fell into accidentally, and fell in love with.

In choosing Dr. Brandt for the post, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Francis Battisti cited her experience in program and curriculum development, evaluation and improvement, as well as accreditation and regulatory compliance, faculty recruitment and more. She's also known for a collaborative and solution-focused management style, which is also a plus.

“She feels the best solutions are derived from people bringing diverse values and experience together to resolve problems,” Dr. Battisti reflected. “Dr. Brandt's experience in higher education is an asset to the Health Sciences Division and to our campus community.”

A changing field

Nationally, the healthcare system is undergoing massive changes, spurred by the Affordable Care Act. The roles of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals are shifting – and along with it, the programs that train these professionals.

“The standard delivery models won't necessarily hold up,” explained Dr. Brandt.

As healthcare becomes more accessible, physicians are assuming more specialized roles, caring for patients who are more medically complicated. A relatively healthy person or one with routine needs is more likely to visit a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant. The location of many services is also shifting – away from hospitals and into outpatient settings, or even via remote delivery for rural locations.

As responsibilities and even decision-making are shared, the need for in-depth training rises – not only for nurses, but for technicians and associated health professions. Health Information Technology also becomes critical in managing the expansion of healthcare, especially in the days of electronic healthcare records and data analytics.

“We're looking at all levels of the healthcare team upping their game,” Dr. Brandt explained.

The new dean hit the ground running. Multiple health sciences programs are currently in the middle of the accreditation process, and planning for the future.

It's a challenging time for healthcare, and for SUNY Broome's Health Sciences Division. But Dean Amy Brandt has the focus, drive and determination – the same qualities that marked her as a budding classical musician – to get the job done.

“It is very dynamic and changing. You can't get bored in healthcare and if you are, you should probably look at changing careers,” she said of the field. “The opportunities have opened up.” 🌐

SUNY Broome Medical Assisting and Dental Hygiene students.



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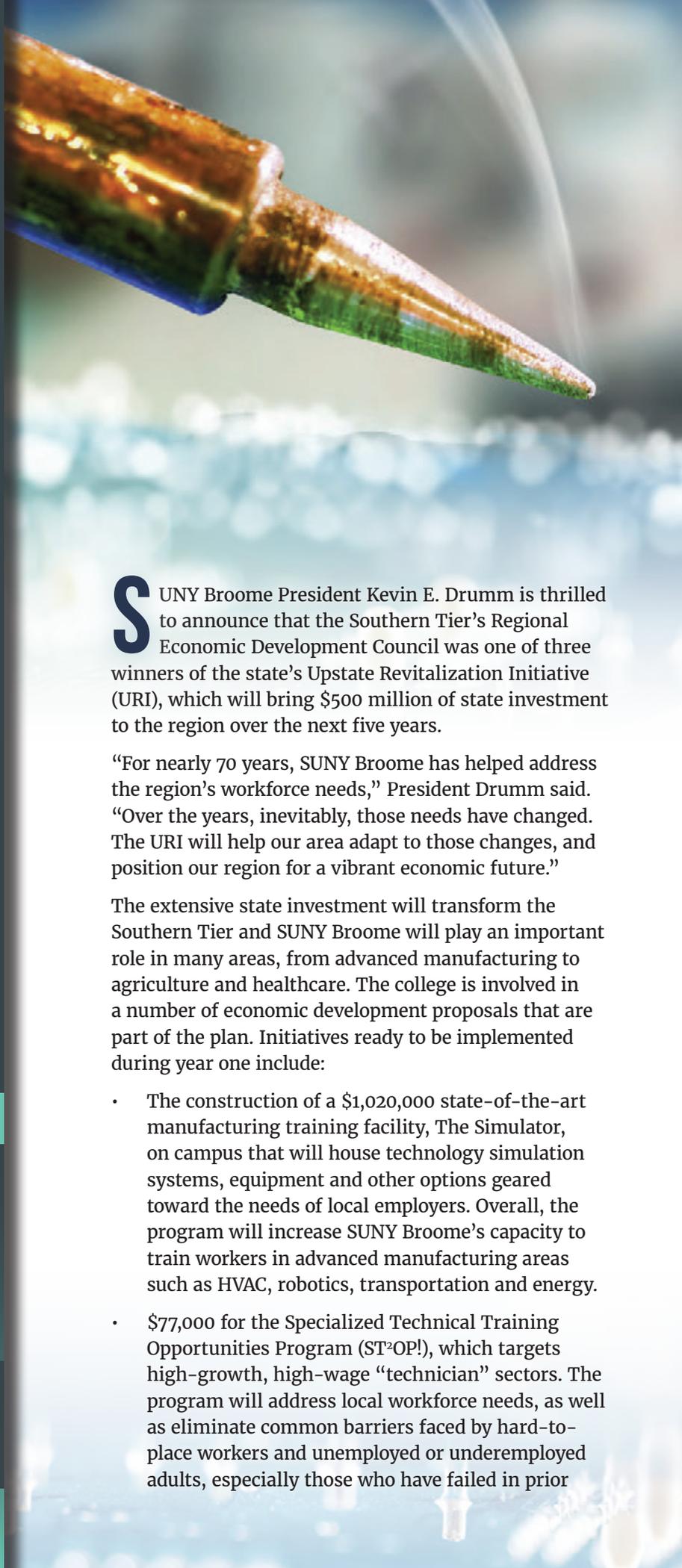
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SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm is thrilled to announce that the Southern Tier's Regional Economic Development Council was one of three winners of the state's Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI), which will bring \$500 million of state investment to the region over the next five years.

"For nearly 70 years, SUNY Broome has helped address the region's workforce needs," President Drumm said. "Over the years, inevitably, those needs have changed. The URI will help our area adapt to those changes, and position our region for a vibrant economic future."

The extensive state investment will transform the Southern Tier and SUNY Broome will play an important role in many areas, from advanced manufacturing to agriculture and healthcare. The college is involved in a number of economic development proposals that are part of the plan. Initiatives ready to be implemented during year one include:

- The construction of a \$1,020,000 state-of-the-art manufacturing training facility, The Simulator, on campus that will house technology simulation systems, equipment and other options geared toward the needs of local employers. Overall, the program will increase SUNY Broome's capacity to train workers in advanced manufacturing areas such as HVAC, robotics, transportation and energy.
- \$77,000 for the Specialized Technical Training Opportunities Program (ST²OP!), which targets high-growth, high-wage "technician" sectors. The program will address local workforce needs, as well as eliminate common barriers faced by hard-to-place workers and unemployed or underemployed adults, especially those who have failed in prior

UPSTATE REVITALIZATION:

SUNY Broome is an integral partner in the region's economic development

college experiences. Training will cover basic computer applications, technical report writing, communications skills, hand tools, shop floor math, quality overview, assembly drawing interpretation and more.

Proposals for future years include:

- The Southern Tier High-Technology Incubator, slated to open next year. The \$19 million project includes \$6 million in NYSUNY 2020 funding allocated to SUNY Broome for the creation of the SUNY Bridge to Entrepreneurial Excellence (SUNY-BEE), which will nurture a vibrant start-up community for student-led ventures. A proposed entrepreneur-in-residence program under URI will enhance the SUNY-BEE initiative.
- The Binghamton Food and Beverage Business Incubator, a proposed nonprofit partnership with the City of Binghamton, Binghamton Local Development Corp., Broome County, SUNY Broome, Binghamton University, Cornell University and the Salvation Army. In the five years, the incubator will include mixing, packaging, vegetable processing, baking and beverage processing operations.

SUNY Broome will also be working with Cornell and other institutions in the Southern Tier Food and Agriculture Initiative, including:

- Designing and implementing specialized entrepreneurial assistance programs and other technical assistance programs for entrepreneurs
- Working with investors to test-market and develop plans for new food offerings

- Creating Associate's Degree programs in agri-business and food technology, as well as expanding non-credit training programs that respond directly to the workforce needs of the local food and beverage industry.

Drawing on the college's long experience offering high-quality training in healthcare fields, SUNY Broome also is looking to offer specialized technician training for the future Johnson City Health Science Park. These would include programs targeting high-growth, high-wage occupations such as pharmacy technicians, which complement and offer entry into the more advanced educational opportunities proposed for the facility.

Going forward, SUNY Broome is exploring future programs that will address local workforce needs, such as training for commercial drivers and supply chain career advancement, as well as a Center for English as a Second Language to further cement the region's global connections.

The college also has submitted letters of support for proposed projects at the Goodwill Theatre and the Roberson Museum and Science Center, both of which host programs with SUNY Broome Continuing Education.

"We deeply appreciate the state's commitment to the region with this important initiative," President Drumm said. "Above all, our region's plan draws on the strength of multiple partnerships among many organizations and institutions, both public and private. Working together, we can build a better future for the Binghamton area, the Southern Tier and upstate New York." 



CUTTING EDGE TECH

SUNY BROOME UNVEILS NEW DIGITAL X-RAY EQUIPMENT

As a freshman, Kristen Chamberlain never worked with SUNY Broome's old X-Ray equipment, but she's chatted with other Radiologic Technology students who have.

"I heard it was called the dinosaur," she said of the equipment, which dated back to the 1970s.

The dinosaur has since been replaced with the Carestream Digital X-Ray Ascend system, a high-tech ceiling-mounted unit that is becoming increasingly prominent in hospitals. It's not the only upgrade SUNY Broome's Rad Tech program has undergone. Other new additions in the last year include a Hovercam and portable X-ray unit purchased through Perkins Grant funds, as well as laptops for virtual radiography and a whole-body phantom.

On November 12, the college held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new X-Ray equipment, as well as an open house where students demonstrated its use. The event occurred, fittingly enough, during National Radiologic Technology Week, which

commemorated the discovery of X-Rays 120 years ago by German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen.

"It's so important for our students to be experienced with everything that's out there," said President Kevin E. Drumm, adding that SUNY Broome has the largest Health Sciences division among SUNY's community colleges.

As with so many initiatives, partnerships helped make the acquisition of this new equipment possible, he noted.

The purchase and installation of the Ascend system

Below: Rad Tech students join Decker Foundation's Gerald Putman and James Leonard, ESD's Robin Alpaugh, Dr. Drumm, and Chair Colleen Donahue, to cut the ribbon at the open house.



cost \$207,602. Of that, \$150,000 came from Regional Council Capital Funds through Empire State Development. The project was in line with the council's five-year strategic plan, noted Empire State Development's Robin Alpaugh (LAAA '88), a SUNY Broome alumnus.

The Dr. G. Clifford & Florence B. Decker Foundation gave \$57,602 toward the project cost, and SUNY Broome received additional support from a 2014-2015 Perkins IV Career & Technology Education Grant Award.

"Dr. Decker had a passion for excellence and quality. What better place than SUNY Broome to have that exemplified?" said Gerald E. Putman (ET '70), the Decker Foundation's executive director. He noted that more than 90 percent of SUNY Broome Rad-Tech graduates are employed immediately after receiving their degrees, and virtually all of them pass their certification exam.

"Dr. Decker would be so proud that his foundation is supporting such a great program," Putman added.

Radiologic technicians are the third largest group of healthcare professionals in the United States today, exceeded in number only by physicians and nurses, said Colleen Donahue, Chair of the Radiologic Technology Program.

"This equipment allows our students to have training on the state-of-the-art digital system that our clinical affiliations have," she said.

"Experience with

this type of system on campus will provide our students with increased knowledge on the importance that medical imaging plays in patient care and health care safety, along with the skills sets students will need to enter service-learning."

Students in the program train on all forms of radiology equipment they may counter in their careers: the older, film-screen systems, computed radiography (CR) and now digital radiography (DR). Many medical facilities, including all of the area's hospitals, are increasingly switching to DR technology, which can produce images instantaneously. There are other advantages, too; newer versions are wireless and can be moved from wall to table units.

"With the advent of computerized radiology, we can now clean up the image a little bit and it takes seconds – 10 seconds versus the 90 seconds or more with the analog," freshman Doug Yarrington explained to visitors at the ribbon-cutting. "And it's a lot less radiation for the patient."

Students demonstrated the use of lab equipment to curious onlookers, carefully positioning the patients on the table and donning protective gear. The latter is especially important for the portable X-ray unit, which technologists would use when responding to disasters in the field. Across the hall, students carefully positioned the new full-body phantom – an anatomically correct manikin dubbed "Trixie" that contains organs and a skeleton under her sculpted skin – on the X-Ray table, as if she were a real patient.

Student Jessi McNeilly said she appreciated the chance to learn on the new equipment.

"It's what we'll be working with in the hospital," Kristen added. 🌍

Bottom Right: Project donors, Dr. Drumm, Rad Tech students and staff at the event.
Bottom Center: Rad Tech students demonstrating new digital equipment.





SUNY BROOME ATHLETICS

Hornets end Fall 2015 season on a victorious note

Soccer, tennis, volleyball, cross-country: SUNY Broome's Hornets were a-buzz with victory during the Fall 2015 season. Here are the highlights from the hive:

Women's Soccer

After a great start, SUNY Broome's women's soccer team kept up their winning ways season-long — culminating in a ticket to the NJCAA National Tournament.

"This season was the best season I've ever had and I have been playing soccer since I was three," said sophomore Rosemary Zelenyak, who gave an award-winning performance on the field.

Starting in late August with a 3-0 victory over Finger Lakes, they went on to defeat Corning, Niagara (in a stunning 11-0 shutout), Mohawk Valley, North Country, Cayuga and then fifth-ranked Genesee, followed by more wins against Jefferson, Jamestown and Onondaga, before finally suffering a 1-0 loss to Herkimer in early October. They followed that up with a 1-1 tie against SUNY ESF and shutout wins over Clinton, Hudson Valley and Erie. They then closed their regular season by sharing the championship with Tompkins Cortland — after a tough game in which neither team could score a single goal.

The Hornets placed six players on the All-MSAC team, tops in the conference: second-year players Emily

Caslin, Shelby Brassard and Emily Cortese, freshmen Kaelyn Michitti and Nicole Harmer, and sophomore Rosemary Zelenyak, the tenth Hornet to receive the MSAC's Player of the Year honor.

After defeating Hudson Valley 3-0, the team advanced to the NJCAA Region III Championships, where they won their chance at Nationals with a 5-0 win over Finger Lakes.

Their next stop was the NJCAA National Tournament in New Jersey, where they ended their remarkable season with a 3-0 victory over top-seeded Herkimer College, enough for a third-place finish. Zelenyak and Harmer were also named to the All-Tournament team.

"This was the hardest-working, most accomplished team we have had in quite a while. Our final record of 17-2-2 and our National ranking of #3 in the country is indicative of the way the season went," said Head Coach Bill Rich. "We came to practice and worked hard every day. We developed quickly into a team that was a force in the region."

With shutout after shutout, the Hornets allowed their opponents only five goals in their 16 regular games — and only eight total, when you count the additional five playoff games. Both are SUNY Broome records.

Even after the season's end, honors continued to pile up: Zelenyak, Caslin, Michitti, and Emily Gibson made All-Region, and Zelenyak and Caslin were both selected by

the National Soccer Coaches Association of America to the 2015 NJCAA All-America Teams for Junior Colleges for their accomplishments on the field. Zelenyak and Caslin were the 27th and 28th Hornets to make All-America, Coach Rich said.

Caslin said this has been the best soccer experience she's had so far — no small thing for an athlete who has been playing the sport since the age of four. She said she's happy to share the All-American honors with Zelenyak, a good friend both on the field and off.

"We all had fun and even in times of loss, we still picked our heads up and went out fired up to play the next game," she said. "This was the first team that I am very sad to leave behind, especially Bill Rich; he was an amazing coach and amazing person."

Men's Soccer

After a rough start, the season began to look brighter for the men's soccer team by their third game. The team went on to win against Corning, Niagara County Community College (a 6-0 shutout), Mohawk Valley and North Country. After a loss to Cayuga, they bounced back with wins against Fulton-Montgomery and Jefferson, before falling to Herkimer, the NJCAA's fifth-ranked team.

Not to be deterred, they stunned the nation's eighth-ranked team – SUNY Adirondack – when they came from behind, turning the Timberwolves' 3-0 lead to a Hornet victory at 4-3. They followed that up with victories over Clinton, seventh-ranked Hudson Valley (in a tough-fought 1-0 game), Erie and finally Tompkins-Cortland.

In October, SUNY Broome hosted the NJCAA Region III Semi-Finals, losing to Niagara County in a 5-4 game. Two players, however, received post-season accolades: sophomore Joshua Wlostowski made First Team All-Region and All-Conference, and sophomore Ryan Bunker made Second Team All-Region and All-Conference.

Head Coach Chris Riley was also named Coach of the Year.

"We beat two top-10 ranked teams in the country — Number 7 and Number 8," Riley reflected after the season's end.

At the community college level, every year is a rebuilding year, but the future looks bright, he said.

"We have a lot coming back and a lot of new recruits coming in. I've been out there recruiting like crazy," he said.

Women's Tennis

The Hornets women's tennis team began their season on a positive note, with a win over Mohawk Valley. But rather than a single note, their season turned out to be a symphony of victory — with a ticket to the Nationals in sunny Peachtree City, Georgia.

During the course of their 10-0 season, they vanquished previously unbeaten Hudson Valley 8-1. When they faced Onondaga, Herkimer and SUNY Adirondack, the opposing teams didn't score a single point. In September, sophomore Leigh Ann Hiser was named NJCAA Division III Women's Tennis Player of the Week.

In October, the Hornets won their seventh Region III title — and the chance to go to Nationals — with 22 points, followed by Hudson Valley with 13 and Mohawk Valley with 11.

At the NJCAA Women's National Tennis Championship in Georgia, the first doubles team — consisting of freshmen Maria Mott and Molly Secord— advanced to face the #1 seed, and sophomore Madison Tassej played in the fifth singles semifinal. The Hornets ultimately finished Nationals in seventh place. Hiser won the back draw final, earning another .5 points to give the Hornets a total 12 points for the Championships.

"This year was a great season and the girls had a lot of fun," said Head Coach Colin Crawford. 🌍



Men's Soccer Team in Action



Women's Tennis at the Nationals in Georgia

Rosemary Zelenyak, Women's Soccer

Women's Tennis

Emily Caslin, Women's Soccer

Beauty Around Us: SUNY BROOME'S NATURE PRESERVE



A slight breeze shifted the changing leaves on the hillside as a flicker darted over the trail, its bobbing flight marking it as a member of the woodpecker family.

While the season had been dry, some of the wetlands were still filled with murky water and ringed with reeds. Frogs plopped into the water as footsteps approached, too quickly to be caught by a camera.

SUNY Broome's Nature Preserve is a little-known campus asset. A new mile-long nature trail, however, makes this a fine time to get acquainted.

"We're hoping to have more student involvement," said Biology Professor Victor Lamoureux, who is also the Steward of the Campus Natural Areas. "We'd like to see more interdisciplinary work."

The campus owns approximately 125 acres in an odd-shaped lot that reaches around the Broome County Sheriff's Office to the surrounding hillside. The newly built nature trail represents the first phase of the natural areas project, which will eventually give access to other parts of the parcel as well.

The mile-long trail begins behind the baseball field, near Campus Services. Community members can park along Lt. Van Winkle Drive, across from BAGSAI, and walk over.

On a gray late September day, a half-dozen monarch butterflies drifted from flower to flower on the hillside as Dr. Lamoureux led a trek. He pointed out the new amenities, including information kiosks, a bridge, a gazebo and six new wetlands built by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. Some of them are fenced, to show the difference between ecosystems with and without deer access.

Phase B of the project is expected to take shape next year. But there are challenges, namely a 4-foot deep gorge. Engineering students will be working on a bridge to cross it, Lamoureux said.

Biology students already use the nature preserve, as do students collecting ticks for Lyme disease research. But Lamoureux hopes to see more, whether art students seeking to paint a beautiful landscape or budding poets seeking to describe nature in verse.

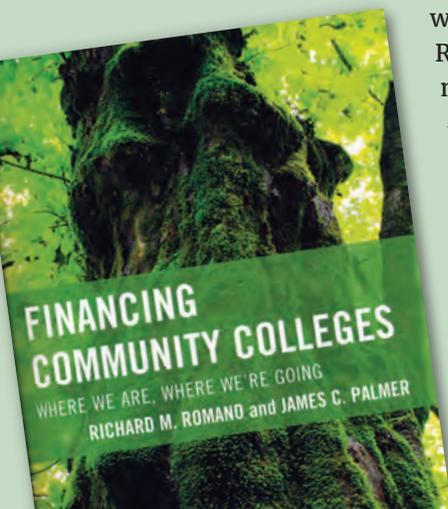
He plans to begin offering nature hikes through the preserve every Tuesday. If you're interested in exploring the campus' natural beauty with a knowledgeable guide, you may want to consider lacing up your boots to join him.

"We can use this," he said of the preserve. "We can walk through here."

New book by SUNY Broome's Dr. Romano explores financing community college

SUNY Broome Professor Emeritus Richard M. Romano has co-authored a book on community college finance that was released this month by Rowman & Littlefield and is now available on Amazon.

Written with Illinois State's James C. Palmer, *Financing Community Colleges: Where We Are, Where We're Going* reviews 30 years of research, highlights current trends and makes projections for the future.



The two long-time scholars foresee a troubled future, unless funding is increased. Supported by research, the authors find no salvation in the free tuition movement, declare that the debt problem is really a repayment problem, and discover that community college students may not be borrowing enough to complete their education. Topics range from college quality, affordability, access, productivity and outcomes to the community college mission itself.

"In spite of our focus on the financial side of the enterprise, we should not forget that the ultimate goal of the community college is student access and success," states Dr. Romano.

Dr. Romano directs SUNY Broome's Institute for Community College Research and is a Research Fellow at the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute at Cornell University.

Challenge Met:

FIRST-EVER 24 HOURS OF GIVING EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS



After 24 hours and numerous volunteers, social media posts, pizza slices, baked goods, cups of coffee and laughs, the first-ever 24 Hours of Giving campaign surpassed its goal.



The all-nighter supported a good cause: the Broome Community College Foundation and the scholarships that allow so many students to further their education.



“With 274 donors and gifts totaling nearly \$50,000, the first annual SUNY Broome 24 Hours of Giving has exceeded all expectations!” said Foundation Executive Director Cathy Williams. “And on behalf of our students, we would like to thank you! Your support is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference.”

The campaign began at midnight Dec. 1 and ran until the following midnight, with volunteers taking gifts and pledges around the clock. The initiative was part of Giving Tuesday, a global event that kicked off in 2012 and has raised millions for nonprofits around the globe.

The excitement could be felt both virtually and on campus. Online, Facebook and Twitter were awash in fun memes in support of the campaign, and donors shared their “selfless selfies,” telling others why they gave. Student and alumni volunteers sold baked goods and raffle tickets in the Student Center, giving away #Broome24 bling and encouraging their peers to contribute. The evening also inspired laughter with a show by comedian Michael Issac, with proceeds donated to the #Broome24 campaign.

The goal, noted SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm, wasn’t determined by the amount of money

raised during the 24 hours, but the attraction of new donors.

“Through this campaign, we hope to raise critical support for our students and campus by increasing our donor base — re-engaging past donors and getting our current donors to participate with ‘challenge’ gifts that will encourage recent graduates

to make their first gift to the college as alumni, while also spreading the news about SUNY Broome and the great things happening on our campus,” he explained, while sporting a powder blue 24 Hours of Giving t-shirt.

BCC Foundation board members also upped the ante, committing nearly \$12,000 in pledges for a matching gift challenge.

The mastermind behind the #Broome24 campaign was Foundation Director of Development Andrea Roma, who spent the day tirelessly working with volunteers and donors — except when she snuck a quick nap under her desk.

Many thanks to the generous hearts of the Hornet community!



SUNY BROOME WELCOMES A RECORD NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL HONORS SCHOLARS

The grand stairway in Decker Health Sciences seemed a bit crowded on Oct. 7, as recipients of this year's Presidential Honors Scholarship gathered for photos.

And with good reason. This year, the Broome Community College Foundation awarded the full-tuition scholarships to 16 students – a record number. The foundation had received nearly 70 applicants from high schools in Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Tioga counties.

"It's our attempt to help keep our best and brightest in Broome County," said SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm.

The bar is high for applicants. To qualify, they needed to graduate in the top 10 percent of their class. Like their predecessors, this year's Scholars completed a rigorous academic curriculum in high school that included AP, Honors and college coursework.

They were also active in their school and community

in other ways, ranging from part-time employment, community service and academic clubs to mentoring programs and athletics.

"It feels amazing because it shows our hard work really pays off," said Ashlyn Decker, a graduate of Bainbridge-Guilford High School now majoring in dental hygiene. She plans to go on to dental school someday, she said.

Stella Safari, a Johnson City High School graduate, plans to major in business administration and eventually start a nonprofit "to help people in need." Her family had moved to Broome County from Rwanda when she was five.

Being able to earn a degree without going into debt is a huge relief, she noted. "I feel that the donors are a huge part of it, the fact that they're donating money to people's education," she said.

'Separate yourself from the pack'

While the scholarship undoubtedly changes the lives of recipients, it also helps shape Broome County's future. By recruiting top area high school graduates with leadership skills, the college – and the region – is able to retain top talent who might otherwise leave, said President Drumm.

And while the college does attract students from across the state and even across the globe, its local mission remains exceptionally strong. Nearly two-thirds of the college's nearly 50,000 alumni have remained in the area, becoming professionals and leaders in all manner of fields, from



Above:
SUNY Broome student Stella Safari.
Right: PHS Recipients with Dr. Drumm.
Far Right: Ryan McMahon with Dr. Drumm.

Above: PHS Recipients with donors and President Drumm.

business to politics. Their ranks include five of the seven Broome County executives, he noted.

Among those successful graduates is former PHS recipient Nathan Dean, who graduated from SUNY Broome last May with a degree in Communications and Media Arts. A graduate of Newark Valley High School in 2012, Dean has found work in his field at Owego-based radio station WEBO. He began as a news reporter and has since been promoted to news director, he told students.

“I didn’t go to Harvard. I didn’t go to Yale. But here I am, working in my field,” he told students. “I’m loving what I’m doing each and every day.”

He advised students to make the most of their time at SUNY Broome: join clubs and organizations, become tutors, become acquainted with the college’s many services and staff members. Forge connections and network with each other as fellow high achievers.

“Always look for ways to separate yourself from the pack,” he advised.

A commitment to community

The scholarship began in the fall of 2007, funded initially by the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation and an anonymous donor, and developed by former SUNY Broome President Lawrence Spraggs and former BCC Foundation executive director Judy Siggins.

While Conrad Klee passed away in 1962, he would certainly have approved of scholarships. An insurance man, he and his wife Virginia never had children of their own. But both believed strongly in higher education, and privately paid for the education of friends and family members, said Judith Peckham, executive director of the Klee Foundation.

The Presidential Honors Scholarships were created to give recognition to the region’s high achievers, and not just students in need, Peckham noted.

“We need you to help build that healthy community,” she told students.

Donors also received recognition and praise during the event, and had a chance to offer their congratulations in turn. The community is proud of the students, who are all future leaders, said Jeff Lake, the regional president of NBT Bank, one of the scholarship’s major donors.

Start-up funding and on-going support for the Presidential Honors Scholarship Program is provided by the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation and other donors to the BCC Foundation; the Estate of



Above: Kathryn Wills congratulated by Dr. Drumm.



Above: Nathan Dean (LACM '14) speaks to PHS students.
Left: (l-to-r) Emily Gibson, Scott Gardner and Mariah Fredenburg listen to Nathan's speech.

Emil Calice; the Dr. G. Clifford & Florence B. Decker Foundation; Delta Engineers; William H. Lane, Inc.; Lockheed Martin (MS2); M&T Bank; Matco Electric Corporation; Mirabito Holdings, Inc.; NBT Bank-Mang Insurance. These organizations have made leadership level commitments to provide full-tuition scholarship support to PHS students. Other supporters include Community Bank, N.A., and LeChase Construction Services.

The reception was a proud moment for Stella Safari's father and sister, who watched her receive the certificate from Wilson and Drumm.

“She has been so great in high school all along,” said her father, Richard Safari. “It is gratifying to see her earn this scholarship.” 🌍

THIS YEAR’S RECIPIENTS

Ishaq Ahmad Binghamton High School	Emily Gibson Seton Catholic Central High School	Jacob Rossie Chenango Valley High School
Ellen Armstrong Vestal High School	Zane Johnson Spencer Van-Etten High School	Stella Safari Johnson City High School
Ashlyn Decker Bainbridge-Guilford High School	Jared Leonard Deposit High School	Tanner Schunk Sidney High School
Mariah Fredenburg Central Baptist Christian Academy	Ryan McMahon Harpurville High School	Taylor Thomas Chenango Forks High School
Scott Gardner Owego Free Academy	Megan Pessarchick Windsor High School	Kathryn Wills Binghamton High School
Bryan Ziegler Maine-Endwell High School		

If you are a Broome, Tioga County, Afton, Bainbridge or Sidney high school senior interested in applying for the next round of **Presidential Honors Scholarships** or for more information on the program, please contact the **BCC Foundation** at (607) 778-5047.



Haiti 2016



Global Service Learning
AT SUNY BROOME



Everglades 2016



SUNY BROOME HONORS HORNETS BASKETBALL LEGEND



Sigrid Bensen, Kristen Bensen-Hause, the 2016 Hornets & Dr. Drumm at the Bernie "Bones" Bensen Alumni Basketball Event Dedication.

Bones Bensen moved faster than a buzzing hornet, making shot after shot on the basketball court.

More than 60 years later, Bernie Bensen remains a significant part of SUNY Broome athletic history with the unbeaten record for the most points scored during a basketball game: 63.

SUNY Broome remembered "Broome Tech's sharp-shooting toothpick" – as he was called in news releases – on January 23rd, 2016, before the Hornets men's game against Jefferson Community College. Alumni filled the stands to watch the game in the Baldwin Gym – named for Bensen's famous coach – and the team wore warm-up shirts emblazoned with the number 63.

SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm praised the former Hornet, and presented framed collages to Bensen's wife Sigrid and daughter Kristin Bensen-Hause, an alumna and associate professor of English for the college. Bones Bensen died on August 15, 2015, at the age of 81.

"That had to be a very exciting era of the college," said President Drumm, noting that Bensen remains an inspiration and role model to students. "When you do great things, you're likely to be remembered for a very long time."

Bernie wasn't the only one of the "Bensen boys" to hold a Broome Tech record, noted Sigrid Bensen. His brother Lyle played Hornets basketball after Bernie, and holds the record for the most rebounds in a game at 31.

The 6-foot-2 shooter played basketball for the Hornets from 1953 to 1955, back when Broome Tech was part of the Empire State Basketball Conference. News releases at the time noted that he had never played basketball while at Binghamton North High School, since he was considered too thin for the team. That didn't hold him back; he was one of the conference's leading scorers. In game after game, he piled on the points – averaging at least 25 points per game.

During that famous March 1955 game with Alfred Tech, Bensen's 63-point contribution helped the Hornets defeat their rivals by 114 to 79. Coach Dick Baldwin, who had been bedridden with a 105-degree fever, was on hand to see it; without an assistant, he still needed to show up to coach the game, he told the Associated Press.

That record game was one of Bensen's proudest accomplishments – and easily visible to the public, thanks to his "Bones 63" license plate. From Broome, a basketball scholarship took him to Hartwick College, where he earned a bachelor's in Business Education, followed by a master's in Guidance from SUNY Oneonta.

He began his career in education in Otego Central School and then came to Chenango Forks Central School in 1965, where he worked as a guidance counselor until retirement. According to his obituary, he was well-known for keeping Hershey's Kisses in his desk for students who needed cheering up, as well as for his fabulous backyard parties at the end of the school year. Of course, he kept up his basketball skills by playing on the faculty basketball team.

Bensen remained a proud Hornet, serving two terms on the alumni Board of Directors, as well as a brief stint on the Broome Community College Foundation board. Before his health took a turn for the worse, he continued to support the Hornets at their games.

"He loved the college. He loved playing for the college," said Sigrid Bensen, who met her husband at Hartwick and taught in Chenango Forks. "We're really happy people are remembering him. He's a local star."

Bones Bensen's amazing accomplishment is now on permanent display in a glass case outside the Baldwin Gym, which contains information, photos and a replica of his 1955 jersey.

SUNY BROOME ALUMNA BECOMES U.S. AMBASSADOR

SUNY Broome alumna Linda Swartz Tagliatalata began the next chapter in her career on February 1, when she presented her credentials to Sir Elliott Belgrave, Governor-General of Barbados.

The Vestal native is now the U.S. ambassador to the island nation. She was nominated by U.S. President Barack Obama late last year, followed by a U.S. Senate confirmation in December. Not just limited to Barbados, the Vestal High School graduate also will have responsibilities for a range of Caribbean islands, including the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

She earned an Associates of Arts in 1969 from what was then called Broome Technical Community College, followed by a bachelor's in economics from SUNY Oneonta and a MBA from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

"During her 36 years of service to the Department, Ms. Tagliatalata has amassed an outstanding record of performance, leadership, and accomplishments," the U.S. Department of State wrote in a November 2015 memo.

She began her career in 1973 as a management analyst with the Government Accountability Office, where she focused on federal personnel and compensation reviews.



CLASS NOTES Spring 2016

After transferring to the international audit group, she became interested in the State Department and joined the Foreign Service in 1979. Working for the Office of the Inspector

General, she inspected 45 embassies and consulates, and also served as Special

Assistant to the Inspector General, where she focused on strategic planning, congressional affairs and interagency coordination.

Following several assignments, including a tour as the Management Counselor at the United States Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, she returned to Washington, where she served as deputy director and then director of the Office of Resource Management and Organization Analysis in the Bureau of Human Resources.

During the course of her career, Tagliatalata has received numerous awards. In 2004 and 2014 she was the recipient of a Meritorious Presidential Rank Award, and in 2008 she received the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award. She has been a sponsor and mentor to countless Foreign Service Officers and Civil Service employees during the course of her career, according to the Department of State.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: FORMER HORNETS BASKETBALL PLAYER FINDS SUCCESS AS COACH

Former SUNY Broome women's basketball player Alyssa Polosky is entering her fifth year as an assistant coach with the Geneseo Knights. As a player, Polosky has won championships at Union-Endicott, SUNY Broome and Geneseo. As a coach, she has become an invaluable member of the Knights coaching staff since her playing career ended in 2012.

Alyssa graduated from Union-Endicott High School (UEHS), where she led the Tigers to a Section IV Championship and was the recipient of the 2007 NYS Section IV Officials Player of the Year award. After graduation from UEHS, Polosky attended SUNY Broome, where she majored in Liberal Arts while playing basketball for the Hornets. In 2008, Polosky and current Broome associate coach Brittany Finkle led the team to the school's first NJCAA #1 national ranking and the MSAC Championship. Polosky earned All-Conference and All-Region honors during her tenure at Broome, as well as being named captain her sophomore year.

After graduating from Broome in 2009, she transferred to SUNY Geneseo. Once again, Alyssa helped capture another championship: SUNYAC. While playing for the Knights she was named captain her senior year, made the First Team All-Conference, Second Team All-ECAC and was a State Farm All-American Honorable Mention in 2011.

Alyssa graduated with a degree in Elementary and Special Education in 2012 and earned her Master's degree in Literacy in May 2014. This is her second year teaching at Avon Central School District in Avon, New York, just south of Rochester, where she is a reading specialist.

Now entering her fifth season as an assistant coach at Geneseo for the women's basketball team, she has many duties, although her primary responsibilities include developing forwards, serving as recruiting coordinator, directing film exchange and developing all areas of social media for the women's basketball program.

Wherever Alyssa Polosky has been she has left her mark. The question is where will it be next: on the court, in the classroom or both?

CLASS NOTES

continued

1940s

Eugene P. Koloski (CH '49) still enjoys traveling despite suffering a broken hip in Aruba last year.

Howard S. Rothe ('49) has been enjoying his retirement for 26 years. Probably the first Hornet to transfer credits to a four-year school in 1949, he has lived in six states, plus four years in Canada and seven in Brazil. He currently lives on a golf course and still plays four times a week.

1950s

John (TO '50) and **Beverly (BT '75)** Mills currently live in Binghamton and have been married 53 years.

1960s

Peter M. Mueller (BT '61) and his wife, Mary, are enjoying life with six grandchildren and spending time at their cottage in Brant, NY, on Lake Erie. Mary volunteers at Buffalo General Hospital. Peter keeps busy by doing income taxes and bookkeeping, and is an avid bowler. They're planning a visit to Alaska for the fourth time in nine years.

Ron Campbell (MT '63) is a self-employed rancher at Smith-Harris Century Ranch in Jacksboro, Texas, where he raises Angus and Longhorn cattle, horses, donkeys and Brittany Dogs.

William Seymer (BT '67) is very involved with community work, and with the USCG Auxiliary for 22 years. He lives in New Albany, Indiana.

Barbara Hazen (LA '68, ET '00) is now retired, after spending 28 years at IBM and 12 years at BAE Systems.

Denny Sullivan (BT '69) has two grandchildren currently attending Broome. Another granddaughter graduated from St. Bonaventure, where she transferred after graduating from Broome.

1970s

Bonnie F. Herold ('73) has worked in the Lourdes Lab for the past 30 years. She is also very active in her church.

1980s

Julie Huggler (BC '81) finished her bachelor's degree at Binghamton University's School of Management, and has been working for Security Mutual for 30 years.

Joan B. Pinckert ('84) had her first great-grandson, Craig, after seven great-granddaughters.

1980s (CONTINUED)

Tim Gillow (CS '84) retired from Corning Incorporated after 30 years of service in IT. He completed his BS in Computer Science in 2003 and became a grandfather in 2012. He also states that he "totally does NOT miss that wonderful NY weather!"

Bob Kalka (AS '86) was named vice president of IBM's Security Business unit. He and his wife Kelly live in Austin, Texas, with two children: Porter, a sophomore at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and Lauren, a senior at East View High School in Georgetown, Texas.

1990s

Robert S. Kline ('93) recently celebrated his 20th year in the financial planning industry. His firm – NFP Corporate Services (NY), LLC – is located in Endwell. Robert lives in Vestal with his wife Dee ('93) and his two daughters. He enjoys hearing from former classmates and professors.

Megan R. (Wahl) Deno ('98) graduated from SUNY Oneonta in 2000 and received her Master's in Education in 2008 from the University of New England's Distance Learning Program. In 2014, she married Brian Deno, a SUNY Broome student. They welcomed son Brayden in March 2015.

2000s

David E. Shupp Jr. (LACM '02) is currently in the Grip Department at IATSE Local 52.

Joseph Dundon's (LAGS '04) company, Dundon Construction, was awarded the "Best of Houzz 2016" award for service excellence. The family-owned company was started in 2013.

Jeffrey D. Gnad, Jr. (BUBA '07) is currently Internal Audit Manager at CHAN Healthcare.

Caroline D. Millen (LAAA '08) was nominated as a Career Champion in November 2015 for her work as an adjunct instructor teaching "Leadership & Communication for the Modern Educator" to undergraduate students. Her nominator described her as "an awesome professor who teaches us a lot of life skills."

2010s

Julianne Cimaomo, (LAGT '10) graduated in Spring 2015 with a bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. She studied Fine and Performing Arts, concentrating in theater and Arts Management. She is also engaged to be married.

Peter S. Kleszics, (LAGE '12) will graduate from Binghamton University this May, with a major in History and a minor in Education.

Justin K. Lynady (HSCD '12) recently graduated from Keuka College with a Bachelor's in Social Work. He is currently attending Marywood University, pursuing a Masters of Social Work and a Masters in Public Administration. He expects to graduate in 2017.

Christine McKight (BUPL '12) earned her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice at SUNY Plattsburgh in 2015. This winter, she was studying for her LSATs with the ultimate dream of becoming a lawyer.

Krista Acker (LAAA '13), a former Presidential Honors Scholar at SUNY Broome, is currently attending Binghamton University and working at the Southern Tier Independence Center.

Melody G. Bawas (HSAS '13) graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Human Development from Binghamton University in May 2015. She is currently serving a year-long term of service in the AmeriCorps VISTA program at United Way of Broome County, focusing on promoting literacy and community engagement. After her term of service is completed, she is interested in pursuing a Master's degree related to social justice.

Stephen P. Comency (BIMO '13) recently moved from accounting at AVRE to running a newly created inside sales and customer service department. He also joined the Board of Directors of the Broome County Council of Churches and was appointed by Binghamton City Councilman John Matzo to fill a vacancy on the Community Development Advisory Committee.

Mary A. Gilbert (BIMO '13) is currently enrolled in the Excelsior Program and working toward her Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources. She has five children (one an alumni and one headed this way in the fall), and two grandchildren. She also was selected to join Sigma Alpha Pi. Mary works in the Financial Aid office at SUNY Broome.

Chelsey M. Strife (BUBA '13) is currently media coordinator at The Brandon Agency in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Tasha J. Domena, (ARTS '14) married her husband and moved to New Jersey a year after graduation. In September 2014, she started at LifeTouch, taking school photos. She earned her first full-time job in her field in January 2015 as a photographer, working with newborns and children.

Aishia Mortenson (RN '15) and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their first child — daughter Lillyanne — in January 2016. Aishia is a former SUNY Broome Student Trustee and a graduate of the College's nursing program.



WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT **OUR ALUMNI** HAVE BEEN UP TO!

Are you attending or did you recently graduate from a four-year university? Have you been promoted or taken a new position? Did you get married, have a baby or are you just living life, traveling and having fun?

We always enjoy hearing what our alumni are doing and where they are now.

Update your contact information and share your news with us at:
www.sunybroome.edu/alumniupdate

For updated information on alumni and campus activities, visit us on the web at:
www.sunybroome.edu/alumni

UPCOMING EVENTS



*Alumni
Reunion*

Saturday, April 23rd 2016

Come enjoy an all-you-can-eat spiedie picnic, men's baseball game, alumni campus tours, academic presentations and President's reception.

Pre-registration is required. Deadline is Wednesday, April 20th. To register, log onto www.sunybroome.edu/alumni or call us at (607) 778-5182