New Unique Service Learning Opportunity at the College

What started as an idea from enthusiastic Communications instructor Tanya Gardner has blossomed into a movement to help students value the importance of service learning. Last year, Gardner, with the help of other faculty and administrators, started a buildOn chapter at the College.

Based in Stamford, Connecticut and led by its founder, president and CEO Jim Ziolkowski, buildOn is a not-for-profit corporation that seeks to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations worldwide through service and education. One of Ziolkowski’s favorite sayings is, “We’re not a charity – we’re a movement.”

Gardner has brought that international movement to the College enrolling 92 students in the program this spring semester. Among other things, students participating in the College’s buildOn chapter raise money for and donate time to local, national and international causes ranging from tutoring inner-city children to collecting and donating outerwear to local shelters.

In June, the program plans to embark on its most ambitious service learning project, a 10-to-12 day “trek” by 12 to 20 students to Haiti. To date, buildOn international has built more than 600 schools in seven countries including Burkina Faso, Haiti, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Nicaragua and Senegal. “It is life changing for them,” Gardner said of the students’ experiences in the program. “We want folks to learn that Delaware County Community College is a community college,” she added, emphasizing the word “community.”

To raise money for the Haiti trek, students will hold fundraisers and seek pledges. buildOn international helps by creating a fundraising webpage for each student that allows students to add their own text, pictures and video. Anyone wishing to support the College’s buildOn chapter, or to donate to the students’ trek to Haiti should contact Tanya Gardner at 610-359-5045, or at tgardner6@dccc.edu. To learn more about buildOn, see www.buildon.org.

Multicultural Festival Bridges Worlds

In December, Delaware County Community College students had the opportunity to explore diversity through the annual multicultural festival. Sponsored by Campus Life and the Office of International Student Services, the event featured 15 tables with information on and food from different countries and cultures, including the Harlem Renaissance, Israel, Lithuania and South Korea. Faculty, employees and student organizations staffed the tables and answered questions about each country or culture. The event also featured live entertainment from the Barynya Russian Dance Troupe. Pictured below are students from the College’s Latin Flavor Club showcasing Chile.
Relax with Your Kids at Lulu’s Casita

Vivian Gonzalez, a student at the College, and Jessica Robles Worch are co-founders and owners of a culturally rich, mom-and-pop business in Ardmore, (6 Cricket Avenue, just off of East Lancaster Avenue), that is part café, part indoor playground and infused with a loving family friendly spirit.

Lulu’s Casita –coined after Gonzalez’s mother Lucy’s nickname – was part of a business plan Gonzalez created in associate professor Margaret King’s Business class at the College. Having had no experience in running a business, Gonzalez said King’s class was very helpful in teaching her how to do a budget and create a business plan for the more than 4,000 square-foot facility which opened in September 2013.

At Lulu’s Casita, parents can have a latte and an empanada and Wi-Fi surf the Internet on their laptops in the café, while their toddlers safely play nearby on a boat swing or in a large carpeted pit filled with small, brightly colored plastic balls. Behind the pit, “Lulu’s Wall of Fama (Fame)” is filled with snapshots taken of parents and their toddlers at birthday parties and other events.

Two comfy rocking chairs – one child size and one adult size – sit in the back of the building for parents to nurse, or put little ones to sleep at nap time, or to enjoy bilingual story time.

Bossa Nova, piped in over the café’s stereo speakers, Gonzalez, 28, compares it to Starbucks with an indoor playground and infused with a loving family friendly spirit.

Two women met several years ago in the Ardmore Free Library while Gonzalez was working as a nanny for a family. Worch’s daughter was the same age as the child Gonzalez took care of, and the two developed a friendship that blossomed into a business that has brought Latin American customs and traditions to Ardmore. “This is actually a very common concept back home,” Gonzalez said, adding that in Paraguay many places have areas where the kids can play while the family enjoys a meal.

For more information about Lulu’s Casita, call 610-642-3623, or visit www.lulucasita.com.

Alum’s Sneaker Business Flourishes on Affordability and Selection

Steve Litzenberg ‘76 is a walking encyclopedia on the topic of running shoes. For more than 30 years, he has gained his knowledge by owning and operating John’s Sneaks in Ardmore, (698 Pont Reading Road, off Belmont Avenue), a small discount running shoe store named after his uncle, John, who sold him the business in 1981.

Personable and friendly, Litzenberg, 60, credits the College with helping him learn how to manage his time wisely and how to work hard. During the 1970s, Litzenberg worked the overnight shift, 40 hours a week, as a supermarket stock clerk, while majoring in Business at the College’s former Dante Campus in Concordville during the day.

John’s Sneaks is a far cry from large chain stores and brand name outlets. There is no glitz, no glamour, no marketing and very little overhead because Litzenberg runs the mom-and-pop store with his wife and with the help of his two teenage sons. Customers know him by word of mouth, and they have been coming to him for top-quality sneakers at bargain prices for many years.

“I have been coming here since I was eight, when it was his uncle that owned it,” said Jim Stuhlman of Havertown, who stopped in one day to buy a pair of running shoes. Stuhlman said when he was growing up, “everybody got their sneakers at John’s.”

Customer Robert “Bear” Hinckle of Devon said he first heard about John’s when he was in grade school, and he has been buying running shoes at the store ever since. “It’s great and the sneakers are unbelievably well priced,” Hinckle said, adding that he comes in four or five times a year.

The secret to Litzenberg’s success is simple: know your product, keep plenty of it in stock, and sell it for less than your competitors. John’s carries shoes from children's size 10 1/2 to men's size 15 (4E) extra wide. Before new customers even try on a shoe, Litzenberg schools them. “There are three different types of foot shapes for shoes, so people should get properly fitted,” he tells a customer.

For runners, who are apt to buy three or more pairs of sneakers a year, John’s Sneaks is the place to stock up. “We try to save you $40 to $60 on shoes here,” said Litzenberg. “I have been here for 31 years and no person in my 31 years has said they got their shoes cheaper.”

For information about John’s Sneaks, call 610-642-9995.
president’s letter

Each year, the College hosts an appreciation dinner for school board directors, superintendents and principals from the districts that sponsor the College. There are 12 sponsoring districts, and residents from these districts pay half the tuition paid by students from non-sponsoring districts.

This year, the theme of the dinner was college affordability, and we made every effort to inform those in attendance about the benefits of the College’s newly revamped Dual Enrollment program.

Dual Enrollment allows students to earn as many as 21 college credits at a discounted rate while still in high school. The students simultaneously earn the credits by attending the College while taking classes at their high school and earning a diploma. It is a wonderful way for bright students to receive an affordable head-start on their college education, and the credits are transferable to four-year colleges and universities.

Kathryn Diamond Rothstein, director of Dual Enrollment and High School Initiatives for the College, has seen the number of students who participate grow to nearly 900 students since we began the program a couple years ago. The College is currently offering discounts that can reduce tuition costs by up to 70 percent for qualified high school students.

The Dual Enrollment program is particularly effective for students when combined with another of the College’s educational programs called Dual Admissions, which allows students to sign an agreement that enables them to transfer seamlessly to one of more than a dozen four-year colleges across the region and start at the four-year school as a junior. Combined dual enrollment and dual admissions give students and parents peace of mind by allowing them to map out their higher education plans from the student’s freshman year of high school through the student’s senior year of college.

In addition, the College offers an online tool, Career Coach, which allows people to search career fields and investigate which jobs are available in the Greater Philadelphia area, the salaries these fields pay, and the academic and training requirements for entry into these fields.

Together Dual Enrollment, Dual Admissions, TransferCheck and Career Coach are powerful programs and tools that make the process of achieving an academic credential and transitioning successfully into the world work easier and more affordable for students and their parents.

 Jerome S. Parker
   President

Kathryn Diamond Rothstein, director of Dual Enrollment and High School Initiatives, speaks at the College’s Annual Appreciation Dinner.

campus news

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR PRESENTS ON REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY

Dr. Ife Williams, an associate professor of Political Science, did a presentation November 5 at Arcadia University titled, “Global Reparations.” The presentation was an outgrowth of her work on reparations from the World Conference Against Racism in 2001 and was extracted from her chapter in “African Americans in Global Affairs,” (Northeastern University Press, 2010). Over the past two decades, Dr. Williams, who has twice received prestigious international Fulbright Award scholarships for study abroad, has been a social activist in addition to teaching at the College. In December, the United Nations declared 2015 the beginning of the “Decade for African Descendants,” making the issue of reparations a major international concern.

COLLEGE RECEIVES AWARDS FOR MARKETING

The College received three Gold Medallion awards from District 1 of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) last October. Dan Kanak, director of Marketing and Communications, and Michelle Tooker, assistant director of Public Relations and Publications, attended the District 1 Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, to accept the awards. NCMPR represents marketing and PR professionals at community and technical colleges. District 1 has 95 member colleges. The College received three Gold Medallion awards for its THINK marketing, television and outdoor media campaigns; a Silver Medallion for Online Marketing/Advertising –THINK; a Silver Medallion for its High School Dual Enrollment video short; and a Silver Medallion for its public website refresh. Also, Kanak and Gary Watton, director of Strategic Planning for Koncordia Group (the ad agency behind the College’s THINK mass media campaign), were conference presenters on the topic of “The Importance of Branding in a Hyper-Competitive and Rapidly Changing Market.”

ALUMNI DIRECTOR INVITED TO SERVE ON COMMISSION ON ALUMNI RELATIONS

Doug Ferguson, director of Alumni Programs, has been invited to the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s Board of Trustees to join the Commission on Alumni Relations. The commission, comprised of more than a dozen national and international institutions including the University of Miami, University of Cambridge, Judge School of Business, and Texas A&M, is tasked with directing research projects and developing professional practices for fellow colleagues. Ferguson will serve a three-year term and is one of two community college representatives on the commission.

STUDENT BUSINESS SOCIETY HOSTS BUSINESS SPEAKERS

The Student Business Society hosted James McCue, vice president and assistant treasurer of Comcast Corporation, on November 18 at the Marple Campus. McCue spoke about his experiences managing Comcast’s financial management and related activities. The Student Business Society also hosted Ken Cage ’98 in September at the Marple Campus. Cage co-owns International Recovery Group, which repossesses high-end planes, vehicles and other assets for banks and other clients. Cage also is featured in Discovery Channel’s “Airplane Repo” reality television series.
Two Alums Achieve Scary Career Success

Alum Scares His Way to Multi-Million Dollar Movie Success with “Annabelle”

It was Gary Dauberman’s dad who sparked his interest in supernatural terror, which eventually led to his writing the screenplay for the mega-horror movie, “Annabelle.” But it was the College that helped Dauberman ’99 envision his career path.

“Annabelle,” a movie about a possessed-by-a-demon, pigtailed doll that terrorizes a young couple and their newborn baby, has grossed more than $250 million worldwide since it opened last October, in time for Halloween. Released by New Line Cinema, the film is a prequel to the 2013 horror success, “The Conjuring,” a movie based on the story of real-life ghost hunters Ed and Lorraine Warren and the creepy possessed doll, Annabelle, they encountered.

Looking back, Dauberman, now 37, remembers when he was three years old having pneumonia and his dad bringing home a book of poet Edgar Allan Poe’s horror tales. “That sort of lit the fire in terms of kind of gravitated toward the darker side of things,” he said. Smitten by the thrill of horror, Dauberman, a native of Glen Mills and graduate of Penncrest High School, later took an interest in horror/thriller authors such as Stephen King and Christopher Pike, and horror movies such as “Halloween,” “Nightmare on Elm Street” and “The Shining.”

But it was not until he came to the College that his boyhood interest in horror started to take the shape of a career. After leaving West Virginia University after a year and a half, Dauberman heeded the advice of several friends who were attending Delaware County Community College and he enrolled. “We all say that was the smartest academic decision we’ve ever made,” he said. “It really sort of provided that direction that we needed, you know, when we were 19 or 20.”

At the College, Dauberman, a Communications major, said he learned that, “I didn’t want to do something that I didn’t love.” He later transferred to Temple University, where he earned a degree in Film and Media Studies. While at Temple, he did an internship with the motion picture company DreamWorks Studios in Los Angeles for the television show, “Malcolm in the Middle.” He later moved to Los Angeles using savings he had accumulated by working part-time at the Aronimink Mills and graduate of Penncrest High School, later took an interest in horror/thriller authors such as Stephen King and Christopher Pike, and horror movies such as “Halloween,” “Nightmare on Elm Street” and “The Shining.”

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Alum’s Horror Film Successfully Burns Its Way on to DVD

“Feel the Burn” says the advertisement, a bit tongue-in-cheek, for the new DVD horror movie Dan Sinclair ’00 created called “Chemical Peel.” The 96-minute, R-rated, low-budget, Indie film was written and produced by Sinclair, who also plays a paramedic in the movie.

“Chemical Peel” is about a group of women who get together at a secluded house in the woods for a weekend bachelorette party which turns deadly after a train-wreck nearby causes a deadly chemical release that traps them indoors. As the chemical slowly seeps into the house, the women turn on each other. “Your next breath could be your last,” screams the ad on the back of the DVD.

After completing the film, Sinclair sold it to Lionsgate Entertainment, a company known for releasing movies such as “Dirty Dancing,” “The Hunger Games” and the “Rambo” series. Lionsgate released it last October, just before Halloween.

Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, Sinclair moved with his family to Chester County and graduated from Downingtown’s Bishop Shanahan High School in 1996. After a rough academic semester at Bloomsburg University, he moved to Coatesville and attended Delaware County Community College’s Exton Campus and then the Marple Campus, where he majored in Communications. “My future seemed dim after the debacle at Bloomsburg,” he said. “But when I registered at the College, I made the President’s List that first semester, and all of a sudden, things brightened again.”

After graduating from the College, Sinclair went to the University of Central Florida, where he studied creative writing and received a Master of Fine Arts degree. Later, he packed up his worldly belongings and moved to Los Angeles, California to pursue his passion. In 2010, he was asked to write “Chemical Peel” for director Hank Braxtan, whom he had met previously when they were both working for a television production company on the reality show “Sports Jobs with Junior Seau.”

To make “Chemical Peel,” Sinclair found his inspiration by repeatedly watching some of his favorite horror films, such as “The Evil Dead” and “The Shining.” The interior footage for “Chemical Peel” was filmed in a house Sinclair and some members of the cast and film crew rented in Glendale, California. Sinclair locked himself in the house with the cast “to sort of trap myself with my characters since they were trapped in that house with each other under a giant chemical cloud.” If this sounds strange, he says, “don’t worry, I didn’t try to simulate the deadly chemicals; I thought locking myself in… was good enough for inspiration.”

For more information about “Chemical Peel,” or to view a trailer for the movie, visit www.getchemicalpeeled.com.
The College is believed to be the only higher education institution in the nation to offer an online, individualized way for students to identify and track courses yet-taken, courses in-progress or courses completed. The tool, known as “TransferCheck,” takes the guesswork out of selecting and transferring credits earned at the College to a specific four-year school in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree.

Introduced in August 2012 as a pilot project with 15 of the College’s most popular four-year school partners, TransferCheck has since grown to include more than 50 transfer partners. “I think we are the only school in the United States to have this,” said Nora Manz, associate director of Transfer and Articulation at the College.

Part concierge, part virtual advisor, TransferCheck has been used by thousands of students, parents, faculty advisors and transfer counselors to assist the College’s students – more than half of whom transfer to four-year schools – in their pursuit of a bachelor’s degree. “The overall goal was to give students options and to put those options at their fingertips,” Manz said, adding that the tool also can be used by prospective students to explore their transfer options.

TransferCheck also helps students save money by allowing them to map out what courses they should take even before they register, thus eliminating the need to re-take courses that do not meet the four-year school’s requirements. Students also save money by transferring associate degree credits attained at Delaware County Community College tuition rates to more expensive four-year schools that allow students who have already earned the prerequisite credits to enter as juniors.

TransferCheck also helps ease the burden on the College’s transfer advisors who handle roughly 1,500 transfer appointments with students every semester.

“We’re honored to be a part of the success at Delaware County Community College,” said Karen Todd, vice president of Client Engagements at AcademyOne, the Chester, PA-based firm which the College hired to develop TransferCheck.

AcademyOne, Manz, the College’s Information Technology department, and other College staff, spent about eight months building and contouring the software to meet the College’s needs before launching TransferCheck. “It’s very time consuming, and transfer is so fluid, it’s always changing,” Manz said, adding that she suspects that is why other colleges, although very interested in TransferCheck, have yet to implement it for their students. But Manz said labor intensive or not, the College sought to meet the needs of its students. “We’re very student centered. We have to give students what they’re looking for, and many of our students are looking to transfer,” she said.

Cutting-Edge Tech Eases Student Transfer to Four-Year Colleges and Universities

BY DENISE ROMANELLI ’94, ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT

If you could go back in time, what would you tell yourself as a college student?

When you were in college, what expectations did you set for yourself for the next 5 years, 10 years, etc. How’s that working out for you? I’m guessing you’re somewhere on the course of your career or continuing your education to achieve that self-prophecy. Whatever your position is today, you are there because of the first steps you took at Delaware County Community College.

You are one of the thousands of alumni who walked the halls of the college and ‘found yourself’ as you experienced learning in an academic setting that met your individual needs. Whether it was for financial reasons, or just taking initiative to embark on the journey of self-discovery, you embraced the opportunities the College had to offer and prospered. Congratulations!

Fifty years ago, Delaware County Community College began a journey of providing students with courage and opportunity to develop minds that led to prestigious careers. You are included when we talk about school pride and fearlessness in facing challenges. The College was able to expand over the last 50 years and provide state-of-the-art technology and business advancements that exceed standards for today’s workforce.

Life Begins at 50!

Those challenges were overcome due to the support of the community and alumni like you. And now it’s our turn to help students of today and tomorrow continue the legacy of educational enhancement from our hometown college. As Alumni Council President I engaged with students by mentoring, speaking, or just participating in college events. It is vital we model the excellence we learned at the College. It is our responsibility to pass on our experiences so that other students may prosper.

I am involved today because someone asked me. So I’m asking you. Will you get involved? We are all busy with careers, family, and obligations that stretch us. But you will find it is rewarding to help students and to see how much they appreciate our support. Let’s stop the frenzy and take time out to build a legacy.

If you are interested in helping the Alumni Association, please send an email to Doug Ferguson, Director of Alumni Programs, at alumni@dccc.edu.
Successful Alumnae Thrive in STEM-Related Careers

International Alumna Succeeds Through Hard Work and Perseverance

December 20 marked the sixth anniversary of Atelling Lawless’ arrival in the United States and the beginning of her life here. She still remembers that day. It was snowing, and the drive home from the Newark, New Jersey airport at two o’clock in the morning was not fun. On the way home, she saw a road sign warning of “deer crossing.” She had no idea what that meant. She knew then that her biggest challenge would be mastering the language of her new home.

Fast forward to December 2014 and Lawless graduates with Accounting and Finance degrees from West Chester University and begins her new job at a regional public accounting firm as an auditor.

Lawless credits her dedication and strong work ethic to her childhood years in China. Born in a small village in northern China, she was part of a loving family, but their resources were limited. “We hardly had electricity and absolutely no heat in the winter,” she recalls. Every child at her elementary school was required to bring at least 5 kilograms of cut dry tree branches to school to burn in order to keep the classroom warm. Children brought candles to school to have enough light to work.

After school, Lawless would visit her grandparents and help them work in the corn and rice fields. While working in the fields, she liked to gaze at the mountain which bordered the village. She thought that one day when she grew up she wanted to see what was on the other side of the mountain.

When her father got a job in the city, Lawless finally got to see what was on the other side of the mountain. Moving to the city increased her desire to see more and explore different places. She was deeply involved in city life. China in the 1990s was growing and changing quickly, and her people were experiencing profound changes as well. Lawless graduated from a computer school in 2001. However, she admits she was not the most dedicated student. She did not know what she wanted to do in the future. She was having too much fun as a rebellious teenager.

During that period, she had a variety of jobs. She moved to Beijing and worked as an administrative assistant to a human resources manager. Life in Beijing was not easy, but she learned a lot. Her only regret was that she did not have solid skills. If there were a chance for her to go back to school, she thought, she would take school seriously.

In 2007, she met her husband through a friend while they were on a tour of China and the two kept in touch. Two years later, she decided to come to the United States and make a life and family. At first, her limited English skills threatened to wreck her self-confidence. However, she soon realized that this could be her second chance to gain a solid skill. She enrolled at Delaware County Community College in 2010. She quickly finished the ESL program and was awarded an Associate Degree in Business in 2012.

While at the College, she was inspired to major in Accounting by her professor John Glavin, who also is vice president of Administration and Treasurer for the College. Glavin recently recommended Lawless for a $3,500 scholarship from the American Institute Certified Public Accounting, which she received in 2014.

Lawless began her career with a local firm in January and is now beginning to study for the Certified Public Accountant exam. She has overcome obstacles and with determination and hard work has reached the mountain top. There will be other mountains, but looking back on her successes, she is confident she will reach her goals.

Alumna Engineers Her Way to a Bright Future

Alumna Nichole Philipp said she struggled so much in grade school that teachers thought she would never make it through college.

But Philipp not only made it through Delaware County Community College, she won state and national awards and scholarships for her academic excellence and community service. By the time she graduated in May 2012 as an Engineering major with an Associate in Science degree, Philipp had been named an All-PA Coca Cola scholar and had been featured along with 20 other students from across the nation in USA Today newspaper.

Now, she is a commissioning and qualification engineer at RPA Engineering, a job she obtained after graduating in May 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Widener University – one of only two women in her class with a Chemical Engineering degree. Her job entails working on the capital management team as project controller at pharmaceutical manufacturer Merck & Co., Inc., as well as making sure equipment is up to specification and operating properly before it goes into use.

Although accepted at three graduate schools, Philipp said she plans to work a while to get some experience. “I felt like I needed to go into the field first and really get some hands-on experience so I know where I would like to focus my course work and my research,” Philipp said. “I will still pursue my Ph.D. That is my goal. It just might take longer now.”

While at Delaware County Community College, Philipp said the instructors helped her excel, especially in Mathematics. She also was president of both the Student Government Association and the College’s chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, experiences which helped open the door for her to be involved in Widener University’s Presidential Service Corps/Bonner Leader Program.

“I know without being in Student Government Association and getting the opportunity to talk to the Board of Trustees and other officials I wouldn’t have been prepared for the events with the President. The ability to hold the two president positions at the College gave me the experience and confidence I needed to take on the intense requirements of the Presidential Service Corps/ Bonner,” she said. Service Corps students serve 300 hours of community service per year in the city of Chester and they participate in training and enrichment activities. The 60 PSC/Bonner students each receive an annual $5,000 award.

Philipp’s advice to students, especially women, thinking about a career in one of the largely male-dominated STEM-related fields is to not be dismayed. “We need more women in the field. If you have any slight consideration of pursuing a STEM-related career, go for it. The sky is the limit and Delaware County is the place you need to be to jump start it,” she said.
Educational Foundation Hosts Annual Scholarship Dinner

The annual dinner honoring scholarship donors and recipients drew 260 guests to the Drexelbrook Corporate Events Center in October. The opportunity for students to meet their scholarship donors and thank them in person for their support is a heartwarming experience for both parties.

Three students were chosen to address the audience on behalf of their peers. Sean McGuire, a student in the Municipal Police Academy, Crystal Griffin, a Science for Health Professions major who hopes to become a nurse, and Tyshon Bullock, a Behavioral Science-Anthropology major, shared their academic and career goals with the audience, as well as financial challenges in meeting the cost of their education.

Amanda Valentin was the keynote speaker who recounted her 2010 address at the grand opening event for the STEM Center. She graduated in May 2010 shortly after the event and went on to study Pharmacy, graduating in 2014 from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Science and completing her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in six years. She is currently a post graduate year-one community pharmacy resident with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and with Walmart’s home office in Bentonville, Arkansas. Valentin told students that five years ago she was seated in the audience as a recipient of the Carolyn McKinley Scholarship. Her academic journey was a triumph over doubt that she could succeed in college or in a challenging academic program like Pharmacy.

She admonished students in the audience “to forget the following words and phrases: ‘cannot,’ ‘could not,’ ‘will not,’ ‘refuse,’ and finally ‘I’m not smart enough or good enough to do that.’” “These are words that hinder our success,” she said.

Kathleen Breslin, executive director of the Educational Foundation, said that she reconnected with Valentin earlier in the year because so many people who attended the STEM Center grand opening had inquired about the status of the student who had spoken on behalf of the student body at that event. “I was delighted at what Amanda had accomplished in such a short period of time and invited her to share her story with today’s scholarship winners and the donors who invested in their futures,” said Breslin.

Amanda Valentin, Class of 2010, who received a scholarship as a student then went on to complete a doctorate in Pharmacy.

Jennifer Troili congratulates Sean McGuire, recipient of the Matt Evans Scholarship established by the Evans Family for students in the Municipal Police Academy who are engaged in community service. McGuire was also one of the student speakers at the event.

Nick Jackson receives the Timothy Finian Hickey Memorial Scholarship from (left) Kathleen Breslin, executive director of the College’s Educational Foundation, and sister Mary Hickey, Timothy’s mother who established the memorial scholarship for students interested in the environment.

Kathleen Schank, assistant professor Social Work (center), presents scholarships established by her and husband Jack to Geena White (left) and Kimberly Bach, Social Work majors.

The keynote address was delivered by Amanda Valentin, Class of 2010, who received a scholarship as a student then went on to complete a doctorate in Pharmacy.
The College received a $50,000 grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co. that will help fund training of low-income residents for careers in advanced manufacturing. The JPMorgan Chase Scholarships became available in January at the start of spring semester.

The check presentation took place last December at the College’s Advanced Technology Center at the Marple Campus. In presenting the check, Mark Schreiber, Commercial Bank, Middle Market President of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., said that their goal is to strengthen partnerships with institutions that train individuals to compete for skilled jobs that are going unfilled. The firm’s $250 million New Skills at Work initiative hopes to make an impact at institutions like the College that share their commitment to the immediate employment needs in their community.

According to Watras, companies like Penn Machine and others offer tuition reimbursement for students pursuing advanced degrees.

To help create awareness of the career opportunities in manufacturing—including immediate job openings, job stability and family sustaining wages—the College is developing a comprehensive marketing initiative to reach unemployed and underemployed individuals, veterans, and traditional students. A portion of the grant will assist with this effort. There are 600,000 skilled manufacturing job openings, according to a 2012 study by Deloitte LLP College President Dr. Jerry Parker said the number of open positions could edge up even further as Americans age out of the workforce.

The College’s C4 team was among the top-tier performers nationally in obtaining student pledges. The team is proud of having satisfied three important goals—assisting fellow students with important decisions affecting their academic careers; assisting the College in carrying out a major goal in its new strategic plan; and being in the forefront of national movements to promote completion.

And they’re not done. The C4 team has established a scholarship that will assist a student with financial hardships in order to complete his or her degree. The $500 scholarship, which will be funded by PTK’s bake sale, will be awarded for the first time in 2015.

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The honor students camped out in prominent locations to promote completion. The campaign for completion is also a major initiative of the national Phi Theta Kappa and of five leading national organizations that serve community colleges.

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