

# The Cayuga SPARTAN

CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUMMER 2023



Cayuga's Path to 2025  
Steve Keeler Looks Back on 36 Years  
Falcon Park to Host NJCAA World Series

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

There's no mistaking the momentum right now at Cayuga. Our institution has a tangible sense of energy and progress thanks to newly-minted partnerships and projects forged after years of effort from staff and faculty. We're on the cusp of special initiatives that promise to shape our institution and students for years to come. There's no better time to be a part of Cayuga.

The launch of our new Strategic Plan, "Cayuga Unbound: Charting a New Path in a Collaborative World," is an exciting moment for our institution. This ambitious route forward, outlined in *The Spartan*, shows our goals for everything from modernizing infrastructure and strengthening partnerships to rededicating ourselves to inclusivity and connecting academic programs to our workforce development platforms. It's a definitive map to reach our goals by 2025. With the help of our staff and faculty, I'm confident we can reach those heights.

Nothing gives us more satisfaction than seeing our students and alums succeed. In this edition, we're highlighting graduates of manufacturing-related programs who are thriving in their careers.

We catch up with students who completed different manufacturing avenues at Cayuga, see the work they're doing and what their dreams are moving forward. We're proud of these and all of our graduates, who are working hard each day to make a difference in their communities.

One final note: Division Chair Steve Keeler retired this summer after 36 years with us. Steve's career has been truly remarkable. He's guided generations of students and led our SOMA programs through an era of staggering technological advancements in the media industry. His impact on our college and our students is undeniable. I wish him the best as he enters his next phase, and thank him for all he's done at Cayuga.

With Cayuga's continued evolution to serve the needs of our students and our communities, your support for our efforts is indispensable. Thank you for your steadfast belief in us and the potential of our students. I wish you an enjoyable fall season, and I look forward to sharing more updates with you later this year.



### About the cover

Cayuga student Tessa Higgins celebrates her championship performance in the inaugural Cayuga Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament. Tessa defeated several classmates in the student-organized event before defeating the College's challenger, SOMA's Jeff Szczesniak. In the background is Class of 2023's Pauly Maloney, who was the announcer for the tournament.

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# NEW SUNY CHANCELLOR COMES TO CAYUGA

Chancellor John B. King Jr. stopped by the Auburn Campus this spring for his first visit since assuming the position of Chancellor earlier this year. He met with students for a relaxed conversation in the Learning Commons and

and chatted with faculty and college leaders about what makes Cayuga unique and how SUNY can best continue supporting Cayuga.



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## FROM THE FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The College Foundation & ACC/CCC Alumni Association had a busy eight months since the last issue of *The Spartan* was sent out last winter.

In this issue and our next you will read about some exciting programs that the College Foundation has undertaken at the behest of President Brian Durant and his team. We have funded a trip to New York for TelCom students (see this issue's back page) and worked with a donor to name the Black Box Theatre after long-time Theatre Instructor Bob Frame. We hosted a celebration with more than a hundred of his former students, colleagues and friends at the ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 18th.

The Foundation is also funding new programs to help those who want to earn a college degree through the College's new Employment Opportunity Program and assist those who have received a GED with the Auburn School District with a "Bridge Award" to earn a Cayuga degree. At the same time, the Foundation has expanded its Presidential Scholarship Program to include more students from our Cayuga and Oswego County communities.

The College Foundation Board saw some changes this February with three long-standing members of the Board completing their maximum three, three-year terms. Kelley Gridley, **Edward "Ted" Herrling '72** and **John Klink '66** all held leadership positions on the Foundation Board. Kelley Gridley served a number of years as Foundation President, and her leadership was vital in addressing items that were created when the Foundation

became a separate not-for-profit from the College and purchased property on behalf of the College in Fulton. Ted Herrling has long been a supporter of the College and for several terms was the President of the Alumni Association. For the last nine years the Foundation and the College Board of Trustees have been lucky enough to have John Klink as the liaison between both organizations. When he originally joined the Board, he was asked by me what committee did he want to be on, and his response was "...any and all you need me on." He served on the Finance, Membership and Personnel committees. The leadership of all three will be missed.

At the same time, the Foundation is thrilled to welcome four new board members, including two alumni. The Auburn Housing Authority's Executive Director and member of the College Board of Trustees, Stephanie Hutchinson is the new liaison between the Trustees and the Foundation. Blake Turner, of NUCOR Steel, who has just moved to the area from Utah as their Controller has also joined us. **Julie Mazzoli '12** of Fulton Savings Bank and **Michael Frame '99** of the Manufacturers Association of New York (MACNY) have returned to their roots at Cayuga. We are fortunate to have all four join our Board.

As the College celebrates its 70th birthday, we hope you will help us raise funds that will help our students, both full-time and part-time, secure their futures at Cayuga.

All the best,

**Guy Cosentino**

Executive Director





### **MICHAEL FRAME '99**

Michael Frame is the Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer of the Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY). After graduating from Cayuga, Mr. Frame graduated from Cornell University's School of Industrial & Labor Relations with a Bachelor of Science and from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs with a Master of Public Administration. He has extensive experience working for several institutions of higher learning in New York and beyond. Prior to joining MACNY, he served as Chief Operating Officer of SUNY Polytechnic Institute and in strategic administrative roles at Florida State University, the State University of New York, and Binghamton University. He lives in New Hartford with his partner, Heather Hage, and their three children (Sofia, CJ, and James) and two dogs (Syra & Moose). He is active in numerous non-profit organizations, including the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority and Mohawk Valley EDGE, and has previously served as Chair of: the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Council on Government Affairs, Syracuse Industrial Development Agency, and OnPoint for College, among other organizations.



### **STEPHANIE HUTCHINSON**

After graduating from Auburn High School, Stephanie Hutchinson attended Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, where she concentrated on Economics and Statistics. After obtaining her Bachelor of Science, she completed her master's degree in Public Administration at Syracuse University's Maxwell School. She has served as the Executive Director of Auburn Housing Authority since April of 2010 and the Chief Executive Officer of the AHA Development Corporation since 2012. Ms. Hutchinson was appointed to the Cayuga Community College Board of Trustees in August of 2016 and is Chair of the Board's Finance Committee. She recently joined the board of the Cayuga Community Health Network. She was a participant in the Leadership Cayuga Class of 2012. She and her husband, David Thurston, have two children: Leah, age 10, and Ben, age 5.



### **JULIE MAZZOLI '12**

Julie Mazzoli, a 2012 graduate of Cayuga Community College, is the Senior Vice President/Lending Compliance Officer and Community Reinvestment Officer for Fulton Savings Bank. She has been with Fulton Savings for more than three decades, joining the bank as a teller and moving up the ranks in the organization to her present position. She attended Empire State College and received a bachelor's degree in Accounting. She is very active in the Bank's community activities. She lives in Fulton with her husband, Mark Mazzoli.



### **BLAKE TURNER**

Blake Turner grew up in the Salt Lake City area in Utah and attended the University of Utah where he received a bachelor's degree in accounting and later an MBA. He began his career at a manufacturing facility in Salt Lake City as an accountant, and later became a controller for a heavy civil highway construction company. Mr. Turner joined Nucor at a Vulcraft Utah Division as a controller in July of 2019. In February of 2022 he accepted the controller position at the Nucor Steel plant in Auburn. He has been married to his wife Bryndie for 16 years and has 3 daughters, Audrey (13), Katie (10), and Abby (8). In his free time, he enjoys traveling, playing sports, reading, and cooking together as a family.

# Academy Supports Criminal Justice Students, Law Enforcement Community

A new project at Cayuga's Fulton Campus will create a police academy for Central New York-based law enforcement agencies while also linking students in one of the College's most successful programs to viable career pathways.

With generous support from Oswego County leaders, the College this year will begin construction of the Oswego County Regional Police Academy in the storefront properties of its Fulton Campus.

"This project is the culmination of working with leadership in Oswego County and our law enforcement partners to ensure the academy meets the needs of our commu-

nities. The academy is designed not only to reinforce our law enforcement community, but also to allow students in our Criminal Justice programs to connect with local agencies and explore the career avenues those opportunities present," said Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant. "We're incredibly appreciative for the support of Oswego County, and we look forward to working with their leadership in the years ahead."

The Oswego County Legislature awarded \$400,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding to the College for the academy, and county officials, including Sheriff Don Hilton, have been strong voices in support of the project.

"We're pleased to support the Oswego County Regional Police Academy with the county's ARPA funds," said Oswego County Vice Chairman of the Legislature Marc Greco, District 24, chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee. "This collaboration fills a critical need in our region and the investment will pay dividends for

local students and law enforcement agencies well into the future. We thank Cayuga Community College's leadership for their vision and look forward to seeing future generations of law enforcement officers make their way through the academy."



This spring Cayuga received \$400,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds from Oswego County for the construction of a police academy at the Fulton Campus. Pictured from left are Legislator Herbert Yerdon, Legislator Linda Lockwood, Oswego County Sheriff Don Hilton, Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant, Legislature Vice Chair Marc Greco, Cayuga Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Ron Cantor, Criminal Justice Program Director Theresa Misiaszek, and Legislator Jim Karasek.

For more than five decades, Cayuga has offered one of the top associate's degree programs in Criminal Justice in New York State. The College is exploring additional measures to develop these programs to better serve its students, including offering concentrations specifically tailored to fields such as Law Enforcement, Juvenile Justice, Probation

Officer Assistant, Homeland Security and Crime Analysis and Intelligence.

The Law Enforcement Concentration would allow for students to be hired by an agency upon completion of Phase I of the academy so they can begin the second phase of the academy directly after earning their Cayuga degree.

Hosting the academy on-campus will build a bridge between the academy, local law enforcement and the College's Criminal Justice programs. Students would have the opportunity to earn their degree and complete Phase I of the academy while at the same time building ties with local enforcement to better understand available career paths in the law enforcement field.

The 5,000-square-foot-plus facility will include flex training and exercise space, offices and more, with attendees also having access to classroom space in the primary Fulton Campus building.



# THREE DECADES OF FUN

*Professor Steve Keeler looks back on 36 'dynamic' years at Cayuga*

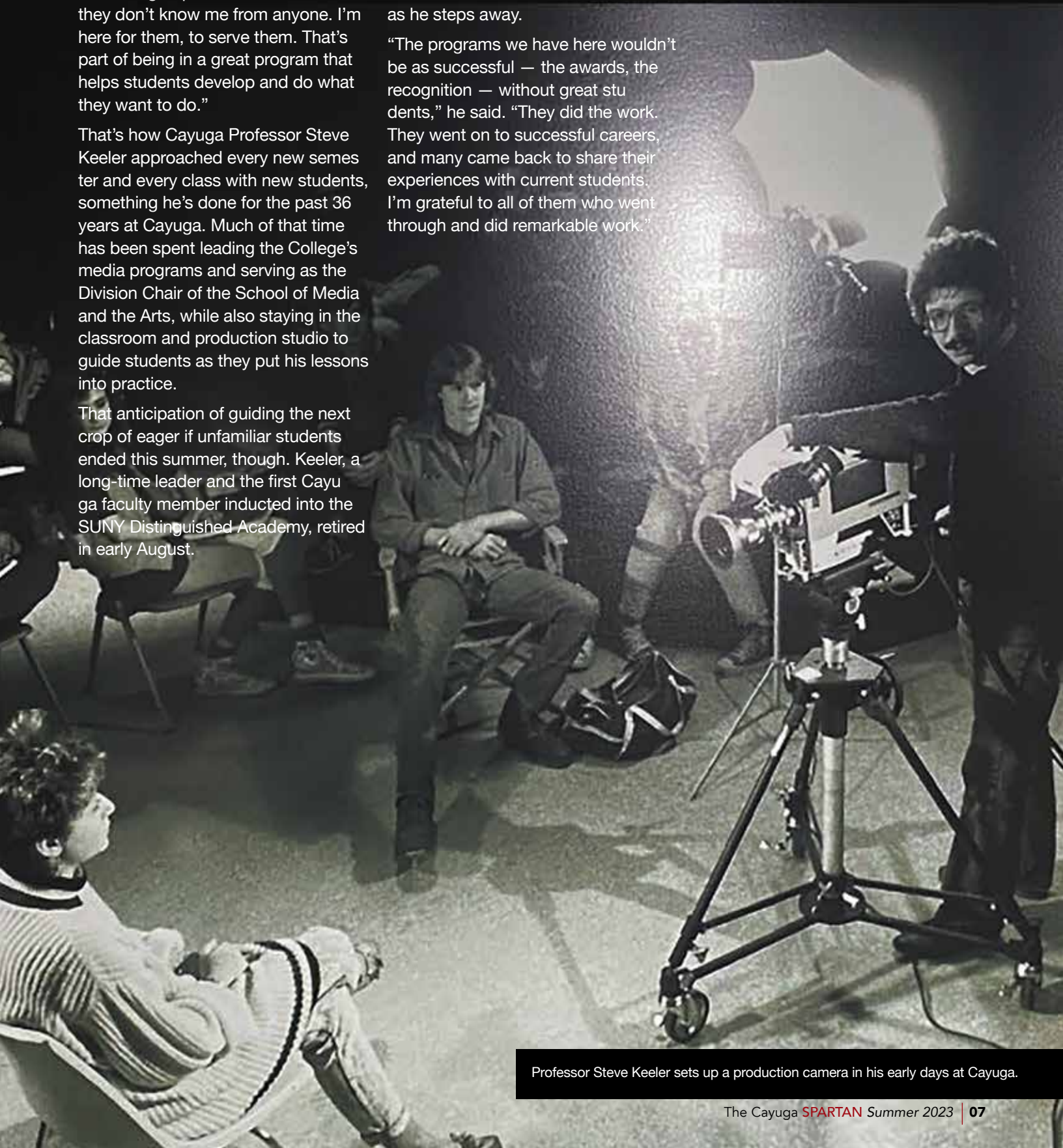
"Every year I have to earn the respect of a new group of students, because they don't know me from anyone. I'm here for them, to serve them. That's part of being in a great program that helps students develop and do what they want to do."

That's how Cayuga Professor Steve Keeler approached every new semester and every class with new students, something he's done for the past 36 years at Cayuga. Much of that time has been spent leading the College's media programs and serving as the Division Chair of the School of Media and the Arts, while also staying in the classroom and production studio to guide students as they put his lessons into practice.

That anticipation of guiding the next crop of eager if unfamiliar students ended this summer, though. Keeler, a long-time leader and the first Cayuga faculty member inducted into the SUNY Distinguished Academy, retired in early August.

It's clear that the interactions with students are what he'll miss the most as he steps away.

"The programs we have here wouldn't be as successful — the awards, the recognition — without great students," he said. "They did the work. They went on to successful careers, and many came back to share their experiences with current students. I'm grateful to all of them who went through and did remarkable work."



Professor Steve Keeler sets up a production camera in his early days at Cayuga.



Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant said Professor Keeler's contributions can be seen across the College and the community, both in the development of new programs and the successful careers of his students.

"You won't find many who impacted Cayuga the way Steve has, whether through his work with students, program development, or reinforcing our presence in the community," said Dr. Durant. "In my mind, though, his greatest contribution was always in nurturing the talents of students in our media programs. His expertise, and his ability to connect with students, pushed those programs and students to tremendous success."

Working with Cayuga students is what first drew Cayuga to Keeler's attention. As a program developer and executive producer for New Channels, part of his responsibilities included supervising interns. He realized that the students from Cayuga always seemed a few steps ahead of their fellow interns, and decided to tour the College's media facilities.

Cayuga Professor Emeritus Jeff Delbel, who was Dean of Enrollment and Student Development when Keeler arrived, said Keeler inherently understood how to work with students.

"Steve cares. He cares about his students. At a community college, you have to get it, and he always did," said Delbel. "He always worked wonderfully with students, no matter their background, and that's why students in his programs thrived."

Looking back on his first years with the program, Keeler laughs when remembering the equipment staff and students were using.

"We had one camera to sign out, with a separate recorder, and it was gigantic and heavy. We had a tape-editing system, the radio station was using vinyl and 8-track tapes, and the TV station was a pretty primitive setup. That was all we had," he said.

The media programs went through countless equipment overhauls since he started. Tape-based editing to digital editing to computer-based editing, low resolution to high resolution and 4K and 8K — the list goes on, he said.

The College added audio production suites, a video-editing lab, and the recording studio that's now home to Cayuga Records, the student-run recording company started in his tenure. Streaming and podcasts are now part of the media experience, and the radio station is live all-day, every day.

"I have been around academia for 50-plus years and have never seen anyone who has had such a profound, positive, and lasting impact as Steve has. He has been a visionary in curriculum and technology since day one," said Tom Proietti, the Visiting Media Scholar at St. John Fisher University and the former chair of the Communications Department at Monroe Community College.

Many of those improvements were a direct result of Keeler's unflagging determination that Cayuga's students should have access to top-tier equipment and courses, said **Eileen Jerrett '99**, a graduate of the Telecommunications program and a film documentarian who has twice served as Cayuga's Brunell Visiting Artist.

Those resources, and the atmosphere created in the media and arts programs, gave students the confidence to believe in themselves and what they could accomplish, said Jerrett.

"Steve fought for us to have a fortified education with access to cutting edge equipment, carefully crafted courses, and an array of extracurricular activities. Whatever we as students could dream up, no matter how far-fetched, Steve would do all he could to provide us with the tools and guidance to see it through," she said. "As a result, we were prepared, proficient, and confident when we began our careers."







Those improvements merged with an emphasis on building connections among students and faculty, helping the programs flourish.

“Our students feel like they’re a part of something, that they’re pre-professionals and that they’re part of a network that starts here,” said Keeler. “Each year we create an environment where students feel welcome, they can engage with us and each other, and they have fun. In this business, you’re supposed to have fun.”

A full plate leading the modernized media programs and serving as a Division Chair at the College didn’t stop Keeler from stepping forward to help with other initiatives at Cayuga or in the community.

Over the decades he carved out time to serve as a founding board member for the SUNY Distinguished Academy, the Auburn Public Theater, Auburn Regional Media Access Center, and the Auburn Cable Commission. He was also the chair for the NEA State Technology Committee, and judged national student video competitions.

At Cayuga, he was vital in developing six new degree programs, including Media Communications, Media Technology and Culinary Arts, as well as a host of concentrations and courses.

He guided students in the production of a weekly show, “Inside Government,” in which local leaders discussed events and projects in the community.

Thinking back, there’s little Keeler didn’t do, noted Delbel.

“I don’t think people understand how much he did and still does. He was instrumental in the early days of Cayuga’s online offerings, and he hauled some of us into that kicking and screaming. He’s taken on new programs, he led the last Middle States Review, he was one of the leaders in our international study efforts,” said Delbel. “He’s a dynamic force in all these areas.”

But after 36 years at Cayuga, though, Keeler doesn’t plan on staying away for long. He’ll be back in the fall to lead courses about drones. And doubtless he’ll continue to be a vital source of information, ideas and guidance for the staff and faculty.

Most of all, though, he’ll continue to be a supporter of Cayuga’s students and graduates, and a source of inspiration as they continue their careers.

“As students, we knew Steve’s door was always open, and that even after graduation he was just an email or call away,” said Jerrett. “He’s always ready to brainstorm career moves, write letters of recommendation, connect you with new opportunities, or just remind you that someone believes in you — completely.”

# Falcon Park to Host 2024, 2025 NJCAA Division III World Series



In a fantastic opportunity to showcase the state-of-the-art facility, Falcon Park in the City of Auburn will be the host site for the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division III World Series over the next two seasons.

Falcon Park, which is home to Cayuga Community College athletics and the Auburn Doubledays of the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League, will host the eight-team World Series in 2024 and 2025. The park is also the host site for the NJCAA Region III Baseball Final Four in 2023 and 2024.

"We are excited for Cayuga and the City of Auburn to welcome the DIII Baseball World Series in 2024," stated Brian Luckett, NJCAA Senior Vice President for External Affairs & Development. "Falcon Park will be a great location to host this World Series and provide a top-quality national tournament experience."

The NJCAA's announcement comes five years after the City and College partnered to renovate Falcon Park, establishing a multi-sport turf field that greatly expanded the facility's potential to support athletic and community events.

"Auburn is excited to have Cayuga Community College and Falcon Park host the 2024 and 2025 NJCAA Division III World Series. We look forward to welcoming the eight college teams that will participate each year,

and we know that their families and fanbases will find Auburn's Finger Lakes proximity a great area to visit," said Auburn Mayor Michael D. Quill. "This announcement is evidence that our investment with Cayuga to make Falcon Park a top-notch multi-sports facility is recognized in the college sports industry."

"Cayuga Community College is excited to host the 2024 and 2025 NJCAA Division III Baseball World Series



Pictured above, members of the Spartans' 2023 team celebrate during the past season.

at Falcon Park," said Dr. Brian Durant, Cayuga Community College President. "In 2018 Cayuga resurrected its baseball program and partnered with the City of Auburn to retrofit Falcon Park with a new artificial turf surface that supported athletic contests and community events. We believe Falcon Park is one of the best fields in all junior college

baseball, and we're excited to showcase this facility over the next two seasons."

Since the completed renovation in 2019, Falcon Park has hosted Cayuga's baseball, softball and soccer contests. It has also hosted contests for regional high school and collegiate athletics, as well as community events and concerts.

The field hosts up to 2,800 spectators and features an LED lighting system, video scoreboard and sound system, a press box and clubhouses and bullpens for participating teams.





# FEEDING THEIR CURIOSITY

Cayuga's Culinary Arts students enjoyed a unique opportunity this spring when they cooked with Chef Joseph Yoon of Brooklyn Bugs. As part of a shared event with Wells College, the students prepared 10 dishes for

two seatings featuring edible insects, including tiramisu with chocolate-covered crickets, guacamole with black ants, cricket scallion pancakes and grasshopper stir fry noodles.





# CAYUGA UNBOUND

## Charting a New Path in a Collaborative World

2022-2025 Strategic Plan for Cayuga Community College

### College Unveils Innovative Path Forward

Enriched student outcomes. Stronger community partnerships. Revitalized campus infrastructure.

Those are the primary institutional priorities for Cayuga through 2025 as outlined in the College's newly unveiled 2022-2025 strategic plan, "Cayuga Unbound: Charting a New Path in a Collaborative World."

Developed following years of effort from members of the College community, the strategic plan demonstrates

Cayuga's plans to approach the next three years boldly and without recognition of limits as to what it can accomplish, said President Dr. Brian Durant.

"The collaborative effort that underlined the completion of this strategic plan, and the belief from our campus community in what our College offers, are what make me confident that

we can achieve the priorities and goals outlined in our new strategic plan," said Dr. Durant. "By accomplishing these initiatives, we will place our students in stronger positions to succeed and better serve our community."

The plan outlines three institutional priorities: Improve Institutional Outcomes and Engagement, Align and Enhance Partnerships and Modernize Infrastructure. Each is comprised of at least one underlying goal and objectives, along with methods and data types for the College to determine its success in accomplishing the priority.

### Improve Institutional Outcomes and Engagement

Student success and goal achievement are always the primary focus for the College, and to that end Cayuga's goal for the first strategic priority is to create a vibrant learning community where students can succeed.

How is that accomplished? By continuing to build an inclusive experience for all students. By welcoming a broader sense of campus-wide responsibility for enrollment and student success.

And by endorsing and promoting the Cayuga Value Proposition: that all Cayuga academic programs will lead to junior standing at a partner transfer institution or a family-sustaining wage in the workforce.

Progress in accomplishing these measures can be seen in enrollment, graduation

and transfer rates, and student persistence and retention.

Achieving those three ambitious objectives will not only support current students, but also lay the groundwork for future students to better realize how Cayuga supports their goals and prepares them for their chosen future, said Dr. Cathy Dotterer, the College's Vice President for Student Affairs.

"Each of those objectives will illustrate how Cayuga supports our students, how we understand and value their goals, and how we prepare them for their next step," said Dr. Dotterer. "We can accomplish this because our staff and faculty realize how important each measure is and appreciate their vital role in our students' growth."





## Align and Enhance Partnerships

Whether it's with fellow education institutions or industrial leaders, Cayuga knows partnerships make the College stronger and build connections for its students to continue their education or begin their career.

The strategic plan outlines two goals connected with partnerships: Enhancing the integration between academic offerings and workforce development priorities, and exploring shared service opportunities.

Each goal features multiple objectives. These include developing a shared vision with regional education partners that promotes upward mobility for students, creating short-term training to support regional industry and promoting community college as a career-focused, financially responsible option.

It also includes the creation of the College's Workforce Development Center in Auburn, which when complete will establish a one-stop location for those seeking essential career and training services. These partnerships and career-focused steps are essential to preparing all students, whether credit or noncredit, for what comes after Cayuga, said Dr. Keiko Kimura, the College's Vice President for Workforce Development and Partnerships.

"Whether a student is with us for one short-term training class or to earn their associate's degree, we're committed to connecting them to the best possible pathway for their career goal," said Dr. Kimura. "To do that, it's essential we work with our fellow educational institutions and local industry to see what their needs are and how we can best merge our priorities and services."

## Modernize Infrastructure

To most, "infrastructure" means buildings and construction.

The goals for the strategic priority capture the hidden meanings of "infrastructure." One goal is indeed building state-of-the-art facilities, but the other two goals go beyond buildings to developing reliable financial modeling and improving organizational alignment.

Achieving each of these goals requires commitment across the College. It means interoffice collaboration, building a culture that uses data in its decision-making, advancing technological capabilities, and using sound financial principles that match revenue with expenses. Through achieving these objectives, the College will be in the best possible situation to serve students.

"Infrastructure means far more than building state-of-the-art facilities, though we will do that as well," said Dr. Durant. "But it also means building the internal foundation to support our other areas at the College. We're going to do each of those, and I'm confident the results will be to our benefit."



# EOP THRIVING IN FIRST YEAR AT CAYUGA

A cornerstone SUNY program dedicated to helping historically disadvantaged students pursue their academic goals was a resounding success in its first full year at Cayuga.

Arriving at Cayuga in the summer of 2022, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) served almost a dozen enrolled students on the Auburn and Fulton campuses in the 2022-23 academic year. The program is a student-centered holistic initiative, which supports enrolled students in working toward their academic and personal goals as well as future career plans, said Cayuga EOP Director Debra Joseph-McEwen.

“What this program offers students is an opportunity that’s difficult to find elsewhere. It celebrates their potential and provides academic and financial support. However, EOP is about so much more. It’s about positioning promising students so they can identify what degree or career they want, and successfully pursue and achieve those goals,” she said. “This first year was really rewarding, to see these students make successful strides towards accomplishing their academic endeavors, knowing they have a ‘bit of home’ on campus.”

For more than five decades, SUNY’s EOP has supported students who demonstrate academic potential and a desire to learn but who are underprepared for college and have limited financial resources. The program provides first-time, full-time freshmen with a preparatory summer experience and extensive academic support services, additional instruction, individual advisement and non-tuition related financial assistance during the academic year.

Students Brittany Simmons and Lorenzo McIntyre both said they were thankful to be enrolled in EOP, and that the program was an important source of support.



Lorenzo McIntyre said the Educational Opportunity Program is a great support system for students that helps them focus on their goals.

A parent who also works full-time while pursuing a Liberal Arts and Sciences degree, Simmons said the program gave her greater confidence when returning to college.

“You can be one of the most mature individuals in the world, but still not know what you’re doing when you come back to college. Debra and EOP are the factors that help us stay or graduate,” said Simmons. “The program gave me the tools to succeed in my classes, and they always go the extra mile to make sure students succeed.”

McIntyre, who is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice and earned a scholarship earlier this year from the New York State Sheriffs’ Association, said EOP is a great way for students to stay on track toward their goals.

“Recently I’ve leaned on the program for help, and every week I meet with Debra or (EOP Coach Maria Vargas) so we can discuss my classes and anything else that I have going on,” he said. “They do all they can to help us. That’s one thing I always appreciate. We’re really fortunate to have the program here.”

Joseph-McEwen and others at Cayuga are working toward having additional students who qualify for EOP enrolled in the program. Students must meet certain criteria before being enrolled, including possessing a high school diploma or GED and residing in New York for at least a year prior to enrolling.

EOP is now available at 54 SUNY campuses, serving more than 10,000 students.



# BUILDING THE FUTURE

*As the rebirth of manufacturing in Upstate New York continues, Cayuga is stepping in wherever it can to support the industry's expansion.*

*The support may come in the form of ideas or organizing and hosting public events where regional leaders can connect with potential employees. But most importantly, the College has again dedicated itself to preparing the current and future workforce with trainings, non-credit opportunities and degree pathways.*

*With both the Auburn and Fulton campuses now boasting Advanced Manufacturing Institutes, Cayuga has partnered with local school districts and industry leaders on multiple events to show students the possible career opportunities in manufacturing. Leaders are also exploring new academic avenues and trainings, both credit and non-credit, that will put students and current employees in the best possible position to advance their careers and help regional manufacturers grow.*

*In this article, we're featuring three Cayuga alumni already working in the manufacturing industry.*

## A Welcome Challenge Each Day

No work day is ever the same for Kim Schafer, and there isn't a thing she'd change about that.

Schafer, a 2017 Cayuga alum who graduated with a degree in Electrical Technology, is now working as an electrical technician at O-I Glass Manufacturing. There, she spends her days troubleshooting and maintaining inspection equipment using the knowledge of meters and industrial systems learned in the electronics lab at Cayuga to diagnose various systems and motors.

"Every day is different — there's a lot of trial and error. Understanding how to use a meter is crucial to diagnosing a problem in the manufacturing industry. If you know what voltage should be found, if any, when testing between two points on any system, then you can diagnose an issue whether it's mechanical equipment failure or electrical component failure," she said.

*(Continued on page 16.)*



James Mark earned his degree in Electrical Technology from Cayuga, and now he's putting his soldering techniques to use at Waygate Technologies.

## 'It's awesome to be doing this already'

James Mark has never been one to let an opportunity pass by.

So before his freshman year at Auburn High School, when he learned about the PTECH program allowing him to simultaneously earn high school and college degrees, he couldn't say no.

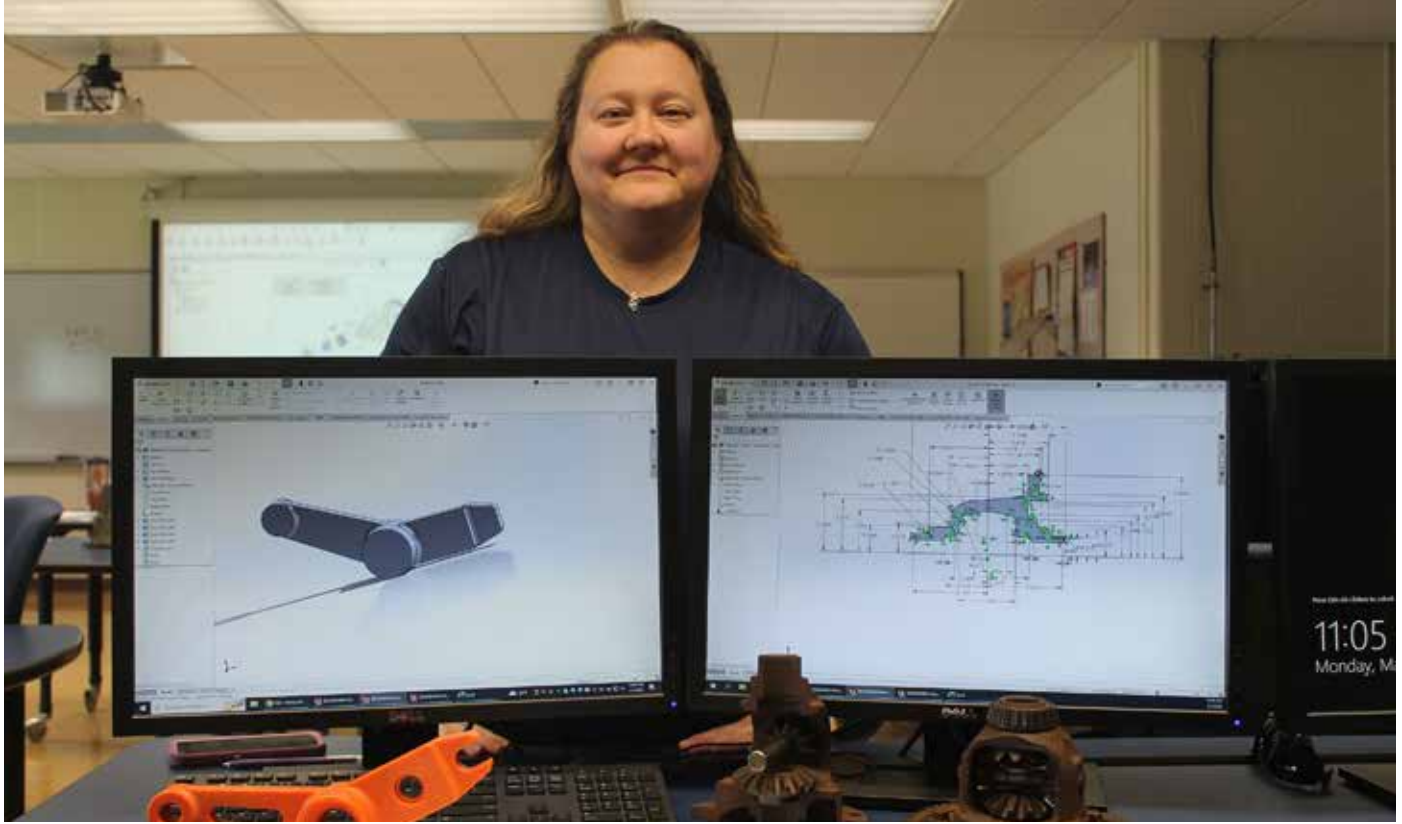
Less than a year out of Cayuga, both his high school and college degree in Electrical Technology are behind him. And he's already working in manufacturing at Waygate Technologies, utilizing the soldering techniques he learned from Cayuga Professor Thomas Karle.

"Without that class with Professor Karle, I wouldn't be where I am," said Mark. "I make cable harnesses, mainly soldering wires under a microscope onto a tiny circuit board. Because I have that understanding of soldering and troubleshooting, it gave me an advantage even though I wasn't even 20."

He's currently working in cable harness prep at Waygate, assisting in a process where a camera is attached to one end of a cable harness as part of a video boroscope. The boroscope is used for the inspection of jets, planes and engines. In this position, he's using the grounded lessons and workplace communication skills he picked up at Cayuga to succeed.

At the same time, he's soaking up as much information as possible from everyone around him, learning the skills he'll need in the years ahead. And he knows, after starting his career at such a young age, he'll keep learning as much as he can.

"Many people my age, they don't have the motivation yet to apply themselves to this training," said Mark. "When we're in conversations, all the terms and topics from college are still applied, even in entry-level positions. It's awesome to be doing this already."



Class of 2023 member Stacey Bredberg has always had a passion for computer-aided design, and now she's looking forward to a career in that field.

## It's Never Too Late

It isn't just one thing about computer-aided design (CAD) that makes Stacey Bredberg want to work in manufacturing. Even now, 20 years after she first used a computer to design, she still loves everything about CAD drafting.

"Once you learn the basic skills and software, you can do anything. Design pools, chairs, engine parts, equipment that's used to go into space," she said. "You go from basic programs to 3D modeling systems. The first time I used REVIT, the drafting abilities are unbelievable. There's nothing you can't do."

Bredberg discovered drafting in high school, and immediately developed a passion for the entire process. She came to Cayuga in the fall of 2021 ready to pursue her

passion for CAD after hearing of the College's success at placing students into manufacturing jobs.

The whole design process draws Bredberg. From the initial idea development and preliminary sketches to final drafting and quality control, she appreciates how each stage plays a part in the final design.

Now, after graduating this spring with a degree in Mechanical Technology, Bredberg started her manufacturing career as a CAD/GIS Technician with the City of Oswego. At 41 years old, she's waited for this opportunity.

"You're never too old. In high school I was studying drafting, and teachers and businesses told me it was a dying industry, that I'd never get a job. So I stopped," she said. "Here I am now, 20 years later, and guess what? The skills CAD teaches are still needed, so this time I'm not stopping."

## A Welcome Challenge Each Day

*(Continued from page 15.)*

Schafer started at O-I Glass in 2008, and in 2014 decided to pursue a degree at Cayuga so she could work in maintenance. At Cayuga, her classes with Professor Thomas Karle were instrumental in preparing her for that manufacturing role at O-I Glass.

"The mechanical principals we learned in physics helped me a lot with much of the work I do now," she said.

"All the work we did in the lab with circuits I now know

when it comes to troubleshooting — try one thing, if that doesn't solve the problem, change that back and try something else. I apply that lesson almost every day. It's always stuck with me."

She encouraged students to consider apprenticeships and other career development avenues, including O-I Glass' summer hire program, which creates temporary work opportunities for summer break.

"Programs like that are a really good opportunity to develop skills and find out if a manufacturing environment is the right choice for you," she said.





Cayuga Nursing award winners and instructors at the annual Moving Up Day celebration.

## Nursing Program Recognizes Students in Moving Up Ceremony



On May 9 the Nursing program hosted its annual Moving Up Awards on the Auburn Campus at a luncheon attended by several award donors and College staff.

Among those in attendance were John and Tina Socci, who presented an award named after their daughter, Katie M. Socci. Bart and Terri Wasilenko of the local chapter of the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI) also attended, as did Nursing Professor Brenda Forrest, who presented the Germain Morin Memorial Nursing Scholarship.

Public health has taken on a more vital role in recent years due to shortages in nursing and the emergence of COVID and RSV. Cayuga's nurses have done extremely well on their licensure exams, with graduates scoring perfect first-time passage rates of the NCLEX over the past three years.

Cayuga's students prepare to serve in a wide range of health-care-related fields. The College, the Foundation and students greatly appreciate the financial support of our donors who are supporting students' academic work, as well as students' practicum at area hospitals.



### Captions:

Cayuga County chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health) Terri Wasilenko, NAMI Scholarship Award winner Rachel Polmanteer, Bert Wasilenko and Cayuga Director of Nursing Mary Driscoll celebrate in May.

John Socci, Katie Socci Memorial Scholarship Award Recipient Colleen Chalker, Cayuga nursing instructor Dorothy Chalker, Tina Socci and Cayuga Nursing Director Mary Driscoll celebrate Ms. Chalker's recognition.



# 70 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In 1953 a group of local leaders worked to create Auburn Community College. Over the decades it has evolved to become Cayuga Community College, with a sprawling Auburn Campus, as well as a second campus at River Glen in Fulton. During this time the College also expanded into on-line courses and the creation of a wide-ranging series of non-credit workforce development offerings from the new Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AMI) on the Fulton Campus and Culinary Institute in downtown Auburn to offerings in the arts, business and photography, to name a few.

As one member of the College Foundation has often said at Foundation meetings, Cayuga Community College is a “jewel of an institution” for both counties. Cayuga’s faculty and staff have been shaping minds and educating our citizens to make a difference in our region for seven decades.

As we celebrate the College’s 70<sup>th</sup> year, the College Foundation is kicking off, with this issue of *The Spartan*, its 2023-2024 Annual Campaign to focus on raising funds to help our students in degree and non-degree programs. A decade ago, the College was evenly split between full- and part-time students. With changes in demographics, the economy and, yes, the aftermath of COVID-19, our campus make-up has shifted to almost 60% of our students being part-time.

The College and Foundation have found that with that shift, there is a higher need among our students for emergency assistance when it comes to food security, health care, housing and transportation. With that in mind we are again focusing on the emergency needs of our students, as funds helping students during the pandemic from Albany and Washington end.

We are asking friends of our students and of the College to make a gift of \$70 to mark the College’s 70<sup>th</sup> year. The fund will be used to assist students with unforeseen emergencies that College staff feel the Fund can help with on a one-time basis.

Donors to the \$70 for 70 Campaign will be listed in the Foundation’s Annual Report and in a future issue of *The Spartan*.

We hope you can help to continue to build on the foundation begun 70 years ago in Auburn by using the Stamped Self Addressed Envelope opposite this page and make a gift to the College Foundation on behalf of our students of \$70 or more.



envelope

envelope



# PTK STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



This spring the College Foundation helped underwrite the student initiation fees for Phi Theta Kappa. Pictured are inductees available to attend the induction to the academic honors society.

For the last four years the College Foundation has helped to underwrite the student initiation fees for Phi Theta Kappa. The Foundation is delighted to assist our students to get into the PTK Honor Society, which allows them access to over \$250 million in scholarships for transfer students who choose to continue their education beyond Cayuga. PTK's students excel in and out of the classroom and have participated in public service projects undertaken in Cayuga and Oswego counties to give back to their communities.

On Monday, May 8, the Cayuga Chapter of PTK held its annual Induction/Awards Ceremony on the Auburn Campus. At the event, Foundation Executive Director Guy Cosentino presented two PTK awards on behalf of the Foundation. The Mile/Fama Leadership Award was presented to PTK Club President Emilia Gislason and the PTK Dean Norman F. Bourke Memorial Award went to Shantel Shingler.

The College and its Foundation are very proud of both of these students and all of our high academic achievers who are part of Cayuga's PTK Chapter.



Pictured clockwise from top left receiving their PTK stoles are Shantel Shingler, who received the PTK Dean Norman F. Bourke Memorial Award; PTK Club President Emilia Gislason, who received the Mile/Fama Leadership Award; inductee Tyler Korsky; and inductee Jessica Warner.

# HONORING BOB FRAME



On Saturday, March 18 Cayuga Community College named its Black Box Theatre in honor of long-time Theatre Director, Bob Frame. From left in second row are Caryl Frame '11 (streaming from South Korea via Facebook Live), with Foundation Executive Director Guy Cosentino, Foundation President John Latanyshyn, Michael Frame '99, Bob Frame, CCC President Brian Durant. Gillian Frame '14, Ann Frame '89 and Alicia Frame '11.



Attendees at the reception raise their hands if they have been in a Bob Frame Production, taken a class with him or attended one of his shows.



Dan Labeille, the Foundation's first Executive Director and an Ex Of ficio Member of the Foundation Board, congratulates Mr. Frame after speaking at the event's reception. Mr. Labeille hired Mr. Frame to work at Cayuga in 1979.



**Michael Frame '99**, talks about his father, Bob Frame, and why he funded the naming of the Black Box Theatre to commemorate his father's long association with the College and its Theatre Program.



## 2021 – 2022 FISCAL YEAR DONOR LIST\*

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#### Laureate – \$25,000 and above

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 The Fred L. Emerson Foundation  
 The Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors, Inc.  
 The Harold E. Leonard Estate  
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### Presidents' Circle,

#### Laureate – \$10,000 to 24,999

Huhtamaki  
 D. Ronald Whipple '64

### Presidents' Circle,

#### Excelsior \$5,000 to \$9,999

Auburn Community Hospital  
 Columbian Foundation  
 Costello, Cooney & Fearon  
 Sharon Detzer '86  
 Harry W. and Dorothy T. George Charitable Trust  
 The Jacob's Press (David Verdi '06)

### Presidents' Circle,

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 (NAMI) National Alliance on Mental Illness – Cayuga County

### Presidents' Circle,

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 Prof. Dawn Matijas-Czolowski '96  
 Medical Society of the County of Cayuga



### Jacob Steinbacher

Recipient of the Auburn Police Union Local 195 Scholarship  
 Class of 2022

"I would like to thank you for rewarding me with the Auburn Police Union Local 195 Scholarship for my sophomore year at Cayuga. I really appreciate the support through my journey and I'm looking forward to a career in law enforcement. I hope to use this scholarship to further my learning within the criminal justice field."



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Sara Seery  
Amanda Stankus, Esq. '03  
Helene Stapleton  
Syracuse Bicycle Women  
Dr. Linda Van Buskirk  
Rexford West '57

### Sustaining Member – \$100 to \$249

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Michael Adey '69  
Daniel Agan '60  
Marianne Angelillo  
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Joseph Bennet  
Marianne Bertini '81  
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Robert Chatfield '92  
Janet '72 and Jeffrey '08 Cole  
Christine Fantasia Connors '66  
Timothy Coville '80  
John Dates '58  
Rita DeForrest '74  
Helen Delfavero '08  
Daniel Ferens  
Anthony and Jill  
Franceschelli '78  
Margaret Fulton '69  
John Green '57  
Susan Reed '68  
Lisa Green  
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B. Gene and Carolyn Kolczynski '65  
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Susan Mackey '73  
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Andrew Poole  
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Prof. William '85 and  
Linda '80 Prosser  
Robert Martin '86  
Elizabeth Quist '90  
Barb '79 and Jeff Rokow  
Mitchell Ross '66  
John '64 and Kathy Scollan  
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Jane Van Dam  
John Vincent '72  
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Carlton West '59  
Jean Wiseman '85  
Susan Witmer '90  
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Stuart '79 and Carol '77 Wood  
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### Spartan – \$50 to \$99

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Tina Geers  
Kathy Gross  
Mary Gutelius  
David Harbaugh  
Pamela A. Havens  
Patricia Heieck  
Wladymir Holak '73



## Kimberly Ann Cespedes

### Recipient of the Cayuga Nursing Scholarship

#### Class of 2023

"I am beyond grateful for the nursing scholarship that I received from Cayuga Community College. This generous gift has given me the opportunity to help me be more successful in school by allowing me to focus on my education instead of having to work more. In a country where it seems that we take education for granted as a whole, I am blessed and humbled by this generous gift. Thank you for investing in my future and for seeing the potential of Cayuga Community College to inspire and produce amazing Registered Nurses!"



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| William Staley                                               | Carol Lauzon '68            | <b>Judith Waynai '76</b>                |
| Scott Stenberg                                               | Terry Layton '69            | <b>Ronald Wilson '68</b>                |

*Our ACC/CCC community was better for these extraordinary people, and we are grateful to have known them. Our condolences to the families of:*



### **Professor Harry Reed Greer, Jr.**

WEEDSPORT - Cayuga Professor Harry Reed Greer Jr., 85, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 21st, 2022 after a brief illness.

Prof. Greer enjoyed teaching the biological sciences. He especially looked forward to his annual Marine Biology Field Course which brought students to the salt marshes of Cape Cod and the coral reefs of Jamaica and Grand Cayman, exposing them to the environmentally important ecosystems. He received the State University of NY Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1974. He represented Cayuga as a delegate of the "People to People International" Organization in 1988, travelling across the Peoples Republic of China while engaging with fellow scientists. While teaching at Cayuga, Prof. Greer co-authored the first edition of "A.D.A.M. Interactive Laboratory Dissection Guide", which was published in 1999 as a "first of its kind" teaching manual in human anatomy and physiology. This interactive is still published and used across the United States. Prof. Greer served with distinction at Cayuga until his retirement in 1999.

Prof. Greer's contribution to the local community extended beyond his teachings at CCC. Nicknamed "Dirty Water Harry", he had a major impact upon the water quality of Central NY, performing water quality studies on the Owasco Lake and Onondaga Lake watersheds for many years with fellow professors and scientists.



### **Peter L. Petrosino**

AUBURN - Peter L. Petrosino, 81, passed away peacefully on Thursday December 29th, 2022 surrounded by his family.

During his tenure at Cayuga, he taught a variety of classes but was best known as "the judo guy". He founded the ACC/CCC Judo Club and served as Sensei until his retirement. As a judo competitor and teacher, he amassed numerous honors and was proud to have attained the rank of Rokudan (6th Degree Black Belt).

He was widely known in the community as an avid hunter and fisherman, or as head lifeguard, or as the man who serendipitously gave you a four-leaf clover for good fortune!

*Additional tributes to College Staff we have lost in 2023 will be in the Fall 2023 Spartan.*



# Every Piece Matters

Lauren Kingsley  
Class of 2023



Recently, a jigsaw puzzle was spread upon a table in the Learning Commons of our beloved Cayuga Community College. Having time, I sat to begin the border of the puzzle. The next day I noticed someone else had corrected an error I made and completed a small section.

I am unsure of how many students like me have worked to put this puzzle together, but I wonder if at least a few are reflecting on their time as a student at Cayuga after earning their degree as a member of the Class of 2023.

As a non-traditional student who is also busy with family and household chores, I assumed I would rarely step foot on campus when I enrolled. But the College took root in my heart after one semester. While placing puzzle pieces that day this spring, I imagined each piece as a class, a member of College staff or student, and the qualities and values I built upon in my time here. All the pieces are essential to my education and who I will become as a professional.

I learned the puzzle pieces I place in my life make a unique picture no one else can recreate. My puzzle pieces led me to a Human Services degree, but the other students may be aspiring to become an accountant, nurse, or scientist. We all pick up puzzle pieces in this amazing college community in hopes of creating a masterpiece. I am grateful for those who work alongside me, correcting my mistakes and encouraging my dreams.

Now, I recognize the puzzle pieces being put in place even when I am not there to see them placed.

I hope that all current alumni and future alumni remember those who helped them piece together the puzzles that make up their lives. Look at that puzzle fondly and often, because you are the only one with that exact jigsaw.

*Lauren Kingsley is a graduate in Cayuga's Class of 2023, earning her degree in Human Services. She was the president of Cayuga's Student Government Organization and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Team.*

The Cayuga **SPARTAN**  
**Cayuga Community College**

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## Telcom Students Visit New York

This spring the College Foundation funded a trip of Cayuga Telcom students to New York City to visit the Paley Center for Media and one of the largest multi-media stores in the world, B & H Photo, to

learn about the newest in video technology.

Nearly two dozen Telcom students and staff made the trek to New York on May 7 and explored the city, including side trips to Broadway, Central Park, and the 911 Memorial and Museum.

Pictured, left to right, at the Paley Center are Jeff Szczesniak, Media/Telcom instructor; Media/Telcom students Nick Sledziona, Laurel Elliott and Alexandra McGee.

