

# connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2013 VOL. XXXVIII NO. 1



Kimberly Beauregard, President and CEO of InterCommunity, Inc., addresses the graduating class.

## Charter Oak Holds 2013 Commencement Ceremony on June 2 Theme was “Perseverance”

Four hundred and ninety four members of the Class of 2013 received degrees during Charter Oak State College’s commencement ceremony held on Sunday, June 2, in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. One hundred and fifty four graduates were in attendance. A live webcast of the ceremony was hosted on CharterOak.edu.

An honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, was presented to Charter Oak alum Kimberly L. Beauregard. Ms. Beauregard, a

LCSW, is President and CEO of InterCommunity, Inc. in East Hartford, a community behavioral health organization.

Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski addressed the graduates. The student speaker was John Thomas, who served as a Board of Regents for Higher Education Student Advisory Committee representative as well as an alternate Student Advisory Committee representative. He also served on the Student Association Council.

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## Honorary Degree Awarded to Kimberly L. Beauregard

Each year, this honorary degree is awarded by the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education and Charter Oak State College to an individual or individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the College and to local, national and/or international communities and who have influenced advances within their own professional fields. At Charter Oak’s June 2 commencement ceremony, the Board of Regents and the College awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, to a proud Charter Oak alum and President and CEO of a prominent Connecticut behavioral health organization, Kimberly L. Beauregard.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some new developments at Charter Oak that point the way forward. First, I attended a press conference at the Connecticut Science Center on July 2nd, to announce the launch of the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers. The Science Center

a small group of institutions who had been represented at a series of national meetings around competency-based learning, were asked to submit a proposal in order to add us to a group of institutions that are part of the Gates Next Generation effort. We were included because of our track record in the area of competency-based learning (note the earlier story about the CT Science Center).

And my final story concerns the successful launch of our Health Information Management major. This is the very first major offered by the College. We chose it using a

professional market research firm. It resonates with our focus on being a workforce College, but it also is the result of our students transferring to Charter Oak with fewer credits (down from 90 to 72). Today's students are not just looking to finish a degree; they are looking to finish a particular degree. So we are adapting. We have already upgraded our Healthcare Administration concentration to a major and there are more in the pipeline.

These three stories illustrate the direction in which the College is moving. We must produce degree programs that move our graduates into careers or promotions; we must use graduate education as part of this effort; and we must leverage our 40 years of experience with Prior Learning Assessment to offer our adult students the fastest, lowest cost path to a degree by accepting for credit things they learned outside of a College classroom.

I will keep you posted. Enjoy your summer!

Ed Klonoski  
President

*"Today's students are not just looking to finish a degree; they are looking to finish a particular degree. So we are adapting."*

has created a program of hands on science learning for Connecticut's K-12 teachers, and they were lauded by the Governor, the Mayor, and the Commissioner of Education, to name a few. In addition, they attracted the support of the Mandell family in the form of a major donation and are already educating 50 teachers. The piece of this story that speaks to the future for Charter Oak is that we performed an evaluation of this educational program and found that it is deserving of nine graduate credits. So this program is now Charter Oak's first graduate program. Notice that it involved our CCAP approach of using a team of faculty to assess training offered by someone else for College credit. If the Science Center enrolls the 1500 teachers they are planning to serve, the number of graduate credits that will be placed on a Charter Oak transcript should be substantial.

The next development is a \$150,000 grant that we received from EDUCAUSE and the Innovation League to be part of an Incubator Program to be launched in Seattle at the Gates Foundation headquarters. This event requires the presence of seven members of the College team, including several of the executives, for three days. The program will help us define a project that we can execute in the area of competency-based learning. What is noteworthy is that the grant was not an open competition. Charter Oak, and

"Charter Oak holds 2013 commencement" continued from pg. 1

In his remarks, President Klonoski congratulated the graduates for taking on the challenge of completing their degree work while also handling the responsibilities of work and family.

"The past two years have been stormy. Connecticut experienced two hurricanes and two blizzards of historic consequences. All of us know more about generators, storm tides, and snow removal than we ever thought possible. But against that backdrop of

extreme climate, this graduating class kept at it. You persevered against not only the usual life events—sick kids, job loss, parental illness—but against the elements as well.

"Well today I would like to thank all of you for not surrendering your dream of a college degree. Not when it snowed 3 feet, not when the wind blew, the rain fell, and the tides came in, and not when the snow broke all the trees in your yard. Your fierce determination

to finish what you started, gives us the encouragement we need to keep improving, keep building new programs, to keep working to make you, our newest alums, proud," he said.

Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance were presented to Elizabeth A. Climie of Waterbury, CT and Carrie Cline of Milford, CT.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013! 🌱

## Greetings! We Hope the Dog Days of Summer Offered Time for Fun.

Charter Oak Alumni recently had some at a New Britain Rock Cats Game, and the Alumni Association is busy planning more gatherings around the country. As we reported in the last issue of *Connections*, we are expanding our horizons and possibly coming to a city near you. After some initial activity in Jacksonville last year, we will be traveling back to Florida several more times this year and we are seeking alums who are interested in meeting with us and helping with our recruitment efforts. In particular, if you are in the health care or public safety field and interested in talking with us about how you might be able to help with recruiting efforts at your workplace, please contact Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations at [nataylor@charteroak.edu](mailto:nataylor@charteroak.edu) or 860-515-3863.

We will also be traveling to Texas and the Washington, DC area. We hope to plan these events with groups of alumni who would serve as coordinators on the ground and to potentially start small groups in your area.

Please welcome the newest members of the Alumni Association Board:

**Melissa Greenberg** lives in Woodbridge, CT. Prior to attending Charter Oak, Melissa attended University of Delaware and University of New Orleans. She lived in New Orleans for seven years and upon returning to Connecticut decided that she wanted to go back to school for

Human Resources. Currently she is doing an internship with a non-profit organization in the HR department and plans to go back to school in the fall for her masters in leadership while looking for a job in the HR field. Melissa feels a special connection to Charter Oak as she suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm while a student. She credits the staff and professors for helping her get back on track.

**John Thomas** is a lifelong resident of central Connecticut. He has two adult children and 5 grandchildren. He graduated in June 2013, with a Concentration in Organizational Leadership. Currently he is the Director of Operations at a local animal rescue agency and the proprietor of JThomas Training and Facilitation. Previously, he served for over 21 years at a local youth development organization. During his time at COSC he served as a representative to the Charter Oak Student Association and as the inaugural student adviser to the CT Board of Regents for Higher Education.

**Lisa Wilson** admits that when she graduated high school she wasn't really ready for college. She found a certificate program in Early Childhood Education and started working toward her AS in that field. By the time she received her degree she had made the switch to retail and quickly moved up in positions. When the company she was working for went out of business she realized that she wanted to get a degree in Human Resource Management. On the recommendation of a COSC alumna she enrolled at Charter Oak. While working toward her degree she was able to find a job in her field of study before graduation. Lisa served as the President of the Student Association.



Alum John Thomas throws out the first pitch.

As always, if you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact Alumni Association Board president, Lisa Wildman at [lisawildman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisawildman@sbcglobal.net). Please send us your ideas and your updates – we always like hearing about the accomplishments of our impressive alumni! And don't forget – YOU are our best ambassadors for the College! 🌱



Alums Chris May and Lisa Wildman with Rocky the Rockycat, Glenn Wildman and alum Lamont McE Vitt enjoy a New Britain Rock Cats game.

# connections

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Issued semi-annually for alumni and friends of Charter Oak State College.

## CharterOak<sup>SM</sup> STATE COLLEGE

Degrees Without Boundaries

State of Connecticut  
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor

Board of Regents  
Dr. Gregory W. Gray, President

Charter Oak State College  
Ed Klonoski, President



Attorney Timothy Grady, Class of '97

Attorney Timothy J. Grady's passion for his role as a patient advocate has led him from a career as a RN that began in 1991 working with HIV-positive, drug-dependent and behaviorally disruptive patients to his current career as a partner and trial lawyer with Halloran & Sage LLP, a law firm with offices across Connecticut as well as a branch in Washington, DC.

Grady, who has been a member of the firm for nine years, focuses on medical malpractice defense of physicians, nurses and allied health care professionals, as well as health care agencies and institutions.

Grady, who earned his bachelor's degree from Charter Oak in 1997, describes his career in nursing as "serendipitous." "As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a lawyer," he said. "A career in nursing was never in my plan."

He had been working for the CT Department of Children and Youth Services (now the Department of Children & Families) as a children's mental health worker at Riverview Children's Hospital in Middletown, CT, and the program changed from a residential model to a medical model. Grady was offered a position, and went on to earn his associate

degree in nursing. Later in his nursing career he worked in the emergency department at Yale-New Haven Hospital, which provided welcome challenges. "Trauma was the most exciting to me," Grady said. "It's probably the area of nursing where a nurse has the most responsibility and autonomy, as well as the opportunity to make a huge difference in the life of a patient."

By the time Grady came to Charter Oak to complete his bachelor's degree, he had two associate degrees – in human services and nursing – and was a full-time, stay-at-home dad, who was also working three 12-hour night shifts a week. Charter Oak's flexibility was paramount to completing his degree, which allowed him to go on to law school and pursue his career as a lawyer.

"Charter Oak allowed me to develop my own program and get my undergraduate degree completed in a way that was both expeditious and meaningful," he said. "I was also given the latitude to focus on the courses I wanted to take, and could take them where I wanted to take them."

## U.S. News Ranks Charter Oak State College among the Best Online Bachelor's Programs

In a recently released report, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Charter Oak State College within the top 15 best online bachelor's programs available in 2013. The distinction is one of three awards the college has received recently for its programs and services to students.

*U.S. News* evaluated several factors to rank programs, including graduation rates, faculty credentials and support services available remotely. Charter Oak State College President Ed Klonoski said of the distinction, "No longer are we higher education's

Grady went on to get his law degree from Quinnipiac University in 1994, and was recently named partner at Halloran & Sage. His experience as a nurse – particularly in the emergency department – has been integral to his success as a lawyer. "I like to say that as an ED nurse, I helped keep the docs out of trouble, and as a lawyer, when they into trouble, I help them get out," he said.

"The skill set I developed in the emergency department is extremely helpful in my work defending physicians and other health care providers in medical malpractice actions and before the DPH," he said. "My clients appreciate that I'm a nurse, that I know what they go through day to day and that I speak their language."

*(NOTE: If you are interested in sharing your success story with your fellow alumni, please contact Nancy Taylor – Charter Oak's Assistant Director of Alumni Relations – and let her know. She can be reached via email: [nataylor@charteroak.edu](mailto:nataylor@charteroak.edu), or by telephone: 860-515-3863).*

best kept secret. The word is getting out that Charter Oak offers students affordable, flexible and workforce-relevant degree programs that rank us among the best of our peer institutions."

The methodology behind the selections included a weighted system to compare colleges. Student Engagement (50%), Faculty Credentials and Training (25%) and Student Services and Technology (25%) comprised the three main areas of comparison.

## Dinner and Theater Bring Alums Together

One of the most popular alum events is our annual spring social. This year was no different with more than 50 alumni, faculty and college staff joining together to enjoy an evening of fine food at the Gelston House in East Haddam, CT followed by musical theater at the historic Goodspeed Opera House next door. The beautiful Connecticut River provided the backdrop to this fun and friendly social.

Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations said, "It's an outstanding night when our alums can get together to meet and enjoy each other's company. We hope to continue to provide these types of opportunities not only for alums in CT, but in other locations where we are beginning to see concentrations of Charter Oak grads!"

We will soon begin the planning for next year's Spring Social. Please contact Nancy Taylor at [nataylor@charteroak.edu](mailto:nataylor@charteroak.edu) if you have suggestions for the Spring Social or other activities you would like to see the Alumni Association consider.



Charter Oak's Senior Purchasing Associate Dave Emerick, Alum Anne Finn, Provost Shirley Adams and Anna Finn at the Gelston House.



Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations addresses attendees.



Steve Langan with wife and alum Kathleen, Marketing Director Carolyn Hebert, Enrollment Services Director Lori Gagne Pendlton and Guy Pendleton enjoy dinner at the Gelston House.

"Ms. Beauregard represents the qualities of community service, personal commitment to education, and collaboration that Charter Oak seeks to promulgate," said Charter Oak State College President Ed Klonoski. "Her long service to those living with mental health challenges has made her a leading figure in this important arena. She is an alumna of whom we are exceptionally proud."

Beauregard, who lives in Meriden, CT, has served as President and CEO of InterCommunity since 2003, following an 18-year career in social services at Rushford Center/MidState Behavioral Health System. She works collaboratively with the Board of Directors, executive leadership team, and area providers to ensure the highest quality of service is provided to clients of InterCommunity.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from Charter Oak in 1993, she went on to earn a Master of Social Work and Master of Urban Studies from Southern Connecticut State University, and a Master of Psychology from

California Coast University. Prior to attending Charter Oak, she earned her Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Mattatuck Community College and a paralegal certificate from the National Institute of Paralegal Studies.

InterCommunity is a non-profit community agency providing mental health and addiction services to individuals, families, and communities within the state of Connecticut for over 35 years. While at InterCommunity, Beauregard oversaw a radical change in how the organization worked with clients, shifting from a maternalistic approach to a more client-directed approach. As a result, the clients were leading their own recovery – which drastically increased success rates.

Under her leadership, InterCommunity has become very innovative and flexible, always trying out new ideas and new programs. "We're not risk adverse. We will always try something new and see if it works." And well worth the effort, she said. "It's about

hope. I'm privileged to work there and see the work people do every day."

InterCommunity was named a Top Workplace by the Hartford Courant in 2011 and 2012. Beauregard received the Dorland Health Care Award – Top Behavioral Health Care Professional in 2010, and the Hartford Business Journal Health Care Heroes Award – Advancements in Health Care Innovation in 2010.

Beauregard is proud to receive Charter Oak's honorary doctorate this year, as receiving a doctorate has been one of her life goals. "It shows that just because things don't happen in your planned timeframe, it doesn't mean it isn't going to happen," she said, and added that her time as a Charter Oak student was integral to the successful career she has today. "If you can be creative and flexible and have someone there – like Charter Oak was for me – you have hope. Charter Oak gave me hope." 🌱

## Trudi LeBron chosen as 2013 D'Amato Award Recipient

Congratulations to Trudi LeBron, recipient of the 2013 D'Amato Award. The D'Amato Graduate Studies Award recognizes a Connecticut Charter Oak State College graduate who is continuing his or her education. The criteria for the award include academic promise, motivation and contributions to community life - which is LeBron in a nutshell!

LeBron graduated from Charter Oak in 2005 as a member of the Women in Transition program. Since graduating from Charter Oak, she has focused her career on working with urban youth in Greater Hartford. Her current focus is in the field of teen pregnancy prevention, teen parent support and non-traditional prevention efforts.

She holds a Master's degree in Psychology and is pursuing a

Doctorate in Social Psychology from Walden University. She has presented her work in the field of teen pregnancy and youth prevention at conferences, colleges, and organizations across the country.

LeBron was unable to attend the June 2 ceremony, as she was at Vassar College supervising 30 teenage boys who were participating in an AAU basketball tournament. She co-founded the Hartford City Knights team in order to make competitive travel basketball accessible to urban youth who could not have afforded the tuition in other programs. In lieu of her attendance, she accepted the award via video.

We wish you luck in your future endeavors! 🌱



Doris Cassiday recognizes Eben David Salter with a Cassiday Award.

## Doris G. Cassiday Awards Granted at 2013 Commencement

The Doris G. Cassiday Award is given to those graduates of Charter Oak who have achieved excellence in innovative learning and who exemplify the essence of the Charter Oak mission. With this award, the College recognizes individuals who avail themselves fully of a broad range of learning options, earning credits both inside and outside the traditional classroom setting. These options include distance learning, testing, portfolio assessment, contract learning, military service school courses and other non-collegiate sponsored instruction, which has been evaluated for credit, as well as classroom instruction.

The Cassiday Award was created in 1998 in the name of Doris Cassiday, a founding member of Charter Oak State College, in recognition of her longstanding commitment to higher education. She currently serves as Assistant Director of Academic Programs at the College and as an academic counselor.

### 2013 Doris G. Cassiday Award recipients included:

Katherine Rachele Avery, Centennial, CO  
John M. Kunda Sr., Plainville, CT  
Michael Harris Riordan, Bolton, CT  
Eben David Salter, Gales Ferry, CT  
Joel S. York, Greenfield, WI  
Congratulations to all!

## Charter Oak Named One of the Top Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans by U.S. News & World Report

U.S. News & World Report recently named Charter Oak State College the sixth Best Online Bachelor's Program for Veterans.

This was the first year the publication awarded the title. U.S. News & World Report created its first rankings of the Best Online Programs for Veterans as a way to help veterans choose a quality online program. Requirements for schools to be ranked included being certified for the GI Bill and participants in the Yellow Ribbon Program. To ensure academic quality, all schools included in this ranking first had to be



ranked in U.S. News & World Report's 2013 Online Education Programs rankings.

"We are proud of this recognition as one of the best online programs for veterans by U.S. News & World Report, as it is one of Charter Oak's priorities to be 'veteran friendly,'" said Bob Frederick, Military Transfer Advisor & Enrollment Counselor for Charter Oak. "Charter Oak recognizes credit earned through military training and experience and focuses on providing these deserving students a quality academic and student services experience." 🌱



# commencement 2013

## congratulations graduates



## Charter Oak State College Foundation Hosts Spring Fundraiser

The Charter Oak State College Foundation hosted a successful spring fundraiser at the Governor's Residence in Hartford on April 23.

The theme of the evening was "The Power of Women...Believing is Achieving," and honored Dr. Merle Harris, President Emerita of Charter

Oak and Founder of the College's Women in Transition (WIT) program. Keynote speaker was Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. Governor Dannel Malloy also addressed the attendees, along with Charter Oak President Ed Klonoski and Charter Oak State College Foundation President Rebeka Scalia.

The fundraiser was in support of the WIT program, which provides single mothers with opportunities to complete a college degree online. Charter Oak provides a computer, Internet access, financial aid to meet educational costs, as well as continuous advisement and online interaction with a peer network. 🌱



President Emerita Dr. Merle W. Harris, Board Member, Connecticut's Board of Regents for Higher Education and Founder of the *Women in Transition* Program (center), with program alum Rachel Leipold (left), and current student Kiajuana Dailey (right). (l to r – Leipold, Harris, Dailey).



Carol Virostek of the American Association of University Women, Jennyfer Holmes, Scholarship and Donor Services Officer, The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and Charter Oak State College *Women in Transition* program coordinator Delores Bell. (l to r – Virostek, Holmes, Bell).



Current and former students of Charter Oak State College's *Women in Transition* program meet Governor Dannel P. Malloy at the Governor's Residence during a fundraiser for the program. (l to r – Kiajuana Dailey, Trudi LeBron, Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Rachel Leipold, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman).



Delores Bell, Program Coordinator, Charter Oak State College *Women in Transition* Program, gathers with current and former students at the Governor's Residence to raise funds for the program. (l to r – Bell, Rachel Leipold, Kiajuana Dailey, Trudi LeBron and Andrea Mullin).

## Charter Oak Awarded Prestigious National Grant

Charter Oak State College is proud to be one of seven colleges and universities nationally to be selected by EDUCAUSE, the League for Innovation in the Community College, and Next Generation Learning Challenges to study new models for improving both productivity and student outcomes. The program, Breakthrough Models Incubator, is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Charter Oak will receive grant support to participate in the program.

Other colleges selected include Austin Peay State University, Ball State University, SUNY-Empire State College, Harper College, Montgomery County Community College, and the University of Maryland University College.

Charter Oak President Ed Klonoski said, "It is reaffirming for us to be represented among such an extraordinary group of diverse, forward-thinking institutions dedicated to finding innovative ways to improve student outcomes. We are looking forward to participating in this study and continuing to bring emerging approaches to earning college degrees to our students both here in Connecticut and nationally." Diana Oblinger, CEO of EDUCAUSE said, "The goal of Next Generation Learning Challenges is to improve college readiness and completion by accelerating and scaling breakthroughs in technology-enabled innovation. The Breakthrough Models

Incubator will serve institutions that seek to dramatically improve student success in terms of persistence and graduation, through more personalized, mastery-based approaches to learning, enabled in part by technology."

The ultimate goal of the Incubator is to broadly accelerate the adoption of innovative strategies for two-year and four-year institutions. Beginning with a small pilot group, the Incubator will work with successive cohorts to create an expanding network. 🌱



The Charter Oak State College team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation offices. (l to r – Cliff Williams, Catherine Hoyser, Ed Klonoski, Shirley Adams, Dan Facchinetti, Karen Rollins, Mike Broderick, Eric Zematis).

# alumni spotlight

## 1979

**Jean Maynard** earned a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University in 1980 and a Certificate for Advanced Studies from Wesleyan in 1996 with a concentration in studio art. She paints in oils, watercolors, and pastels. During the months of August and September 2013 her paintings will be on exhibit at the Durham Library in Durham, CT.

## 1998

**Jonathan Greene** was recently promoted to the Senior Executive Service (SES) and is now serving as Deputy Division Director, US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs (OHA). The SES includes most managerial, supervisory, and policy positions classified above General Schedule (GS) grade 15 in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. There are approximately 7,600 SES members in the Federal Government. They operate and oversee nearly every government activity in approximately 75 Federal agencies. The DHS Office of Health Affairs provides medical, health, and scientific expertise in support of the DHS mission to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all threats. OHA manages a number of significant national programs including the National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC) and BioWatch. Jon has lived in Washington, DC since 2008.

## 2003

**John Griesé** is continuing work on his Ph.D. thesis which was started at James Cook University (JCU), Townsville, Queensland, Australia. The title of the dissertation is "The Role of the Large Refractor in Parallax Studies: The 20-Inch (0.51m) Clark at the Van Vleck Observatory."

**Leonard LeBlanc** recently published his latest non-fiction eBook on Kindle at *amazon.com* called AFGHANISTAN – LASHKAR GAH: HOME OF THE WARRIORS – II. It is the sequel to his first book on the subject.

**Robin Smith** completed her Master's degree in Human Services at Capella University and will be promoted to rank of Assistant Professor at St. Vincent's College in August. She also became a certified patient navigator in September, 2012. She assisted in the design of, and is the first instructor of a new Patient Navigation course at St. Vincent's College.

## 2005

**Carlo Esidore** is currently teaching three online courses: two for Charter Oak, including Mgt 467: Employee Training and Development and Mgt 327: Organizational Change, and one for Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire - Employee Training and Development. He was also recently inducted into Charter Oak State College's Chi Omicron chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda as an honorary member. As a faculty member, he was chosen to receive this invitation in recognition of his exceptional commitment to serving the needs of adult students.

**Steve Zimcosky** recently published a book through Amazon and Kindle. The book, titled "Old Man from the Hill (Lessons in Qigong and Tai Chi)," is about a young boy who by chance meets an old Chinese man who teaches him the ancient Chinese healing art of Qigong and Tai Chi. Steve also works as an adjunct faculty member at Cuyahoga Community College where he teaches Tai Chi/Qigong and Physical relaxation.

## 2006

Alum **Matthew Friedman** just completed his Ph.D. in intercultural studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. This was part of the path which led to his recent completion of a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Intercultural Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary this past spring. He serves on the faculty at Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji, MN, as well as preparing to teach online at Asbury Seminary as an adjunct professor. He credits his success to the flexibility and affordability of Charter Oak State College's program.

Since graduating from COSC, **Lincoln Hale** has received a Master of Theological Studies (MTS), graduating with distinction, in Ancient Biblical Studies at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. He is currently working on a Ph.D. in History of Christianity at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA. He has presented research at a number of conferences including Brigham Young University and Seattle University. His research interests include Coptic Studies, Mormon Studies, and ancient languages (Coptic, Greek, Hebrew, and some Latin). He is also currently serving as Vice President of the Claremont Mormon Studies Student Association. He and his wife Anna have three children, ages 6, 4, and 2.

**Debra Stewart** has been busy since graduating from Charter Oak. She completed her MBA and MATLT, won the APSCU Great Award, and worked as an assistant professor for Ashford University and Sinclair Community College. She completed course work for a Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of the Rockies with a specialization in Health and Wellness, and is currently working on her dissertation. She will soon be testing for her sixth black belt with Chung's Academy of Martial Arts.

## 2009

After working in China until April 2012, **David French** accepted a position as International Product Development Director at Teroforma, a design-driven high-end home and consumer products company in South Norwalk, CT. *www.teroforma.com*.

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration from Charter Oak in 2009, **William J. Hackett** has obtained a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Homeland Security from Philadelphia's Saint Joseph's University. Bill continues to serve

as Connecticut's State Emergency Management Director. In that role, Director Hackett is responsible for, among other things, coordinating the State's response to disasters at the Governor's State Emergency Operations Center. He has been appointed by the Governor to serve as the State Coordinating Officer for the last seven Presidential major disaster declarations in Connecticut, most recently for Super Storm Sandy and the February 2013 blizzard.

After graduating from Charter Oak, **Joseph L. Herrmann** completed a post-graduate certificate in East Asian Studies at the University of Leeds in Leeds, England. He is currently awaiting deployment to Afghanistan for the U.S. Military as an English teacher to Afghani pilots.

## 2010

**Jennifer Bisignano** is currently attending Walden University, working towards her Master in Early Childhood Studies degree, with plans to graduate in December. 🌱

## Get Your Charter Oak Class Ring

Celebrate your accomplishment with a Charter Oak class ring! Class rings are available at **Jostens.com**. Visit the website or call 800-854-7464 for more information!



## STAY CONNECTED THROUGH connections

We'd like to hear from you about promotions, graduate degrees, awards, marriages, births, and other significant successes in your life. We'll publish your news in the next edition of *Connections*. Please use the form below, or drop us a note. Send to: Alumni News, Charter Oak State College, 55 Paul J. Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT 06053-2150 – or email [nataylor@charteroak.edu](mailto:nataylor@charteroak.edu).

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## Thank you to the current and past supporters of the Women in Transition program (WIT) that benefits underserved and underemployed single Connecticut mothers in their quest for degree completion:

### Current Supporters:

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
The Charter Oak State College Foundation

The Leipold Family Foundation

The Women and Girls' Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation

### Past Supporters:

NewAlliance Foundation, The Daphne Culpeper Seybolt Foundation, The Junior League of Greater New Britain, CHUBB, Carrier Foundation, New Britain Foundation for Public Giving, Smith Whiley Foundation, The Linford & Mildred White Family Foundation, Northeast Utilities.

*A special thank you to The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for generously providing a total of \$428,000 to support the Women in Transition Program.*

## WIT Program Receives Grant

Charter Oak's Women in Transition (WIT) program was the recent recipient of a grant from the Women and Girls Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation in Bristol, CT. This grant allows for support of one or two students from Bristol, CT or the surrounding area with the completion of their Charter Oak degree.

The WIT program provides single mothers with opportunities to complete a college degree online. Charter Oak provides a computer, Internet access, financial aid to meet educational costs, as well as continuous advisement and online interaction with a peer network.

"We are excited for the confidence and continued support that the Main Street Community Foundation has

provided for the Women in Transition program," said Charter Oak Coordinator of Special Programs, Delores Bell. "As a result of their confidence in the WIT program we are excited for the opportunity to assist other students from the Bristol area reach their goal of completing their degree and providing a bright future for them and their children."

"We are proud to be investing in the Women in Transition program at Charter Oak State College," said Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of Main Street Community Foundation. "The program goals align strongly with the mission of the Women & Girls' Fund by providing opportunities for women to achieve success in their lives." 🌱



## THANK YOU DONORS

*The Charter Oak State College Foundation and the College thank our donors for their gracious gifts. Your generosity continues to help countless students transform their lives, often beyond what they ever thought was possible. Whether you are a long-time supporter or a first-time giver, we could not do it without you. The list of donors below includes those who have made a contribution to the Annual Fund or Endowment between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. The names with asterisks have given for the past five fiscal years. To learn more about the Foundation and giving opportunities, please visit the Foundation website at [www.coscf.org](http://www.coscf.org) or contact Angela Chapman by phone 860-515-3889 or email [achapman@charteroak.edu](mailto:achapman@charteroak.edu).*

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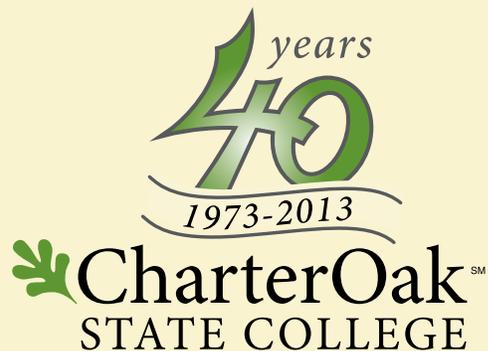
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