BCC Alumni Association

One year ago, twelve directors were elected by their fellow alumni in an online election to create and govern a new BCC Alumni Association. The Association has a pretty simple mission: work to advance both BCC and its alumni. The Association falls under the auspices of the BCC Foundation, and is supported by BCC’s Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

All alumni are automatically members of BCC’s Alumni Association. There is no membership fee. And, all former students and graduates are considered alumni — even if you transferred out before you graduated or didn’t finish your degree.

Get involved! Whether you follow us on Facebook, attend a social event or meeting, or vote in the upcoming election, you can help promote the college and its alumni.

Here are some great opportunities to participate this month:

• **Vote for new directors** to the Alumni Board May 4–15: www.berkshirecc.edu/alumni.

• **Join us for the first BCC Alumni Lend a Hand** event on Sat., May 16. The Alumni Board is partnering with Elder Services of Berkshire County to provide spring yard clean-up for elderly neighbors in five homes. Sign-up online to help out or make donations to support the teams at www.berkshirecc.edu/alumni.

• **Join us in welcoming a new class of graduates into the alumni community at Commencement** on Fri., May 29 at 4:30 p.m. at Tanglewood in Lenox. U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren will serve as the keynote speaker.

Stay tuned for a special event coming in the fall featuring samplings from a number of alumni-owned and managed restaurants throughout the Berkshires.

THANK YOU to Greylock Federal Credit Union for hosting the Alumni Board Meeting this past year!
Message from the President

Dear Alumni and Friends:

This is an exciting time at BCC. We are preparing for a $32 million upgrade to transform our main campus in Pittsfield. This will include substantial building renovations, a community turf athletic field, and resurfaced parking lots and access roads.

The centerpiece of the campus enhancements is the work taking place at our two main academic buildings — Hawthorne and Melville Halls. When completed, these buildings will have been outfitted with the latest technologies, updated classrooms, and comfortable and collaborative meeting and work spaces. Accessibility to these teaching spaces will be greatly enhanced. While the education our students receive at BCC has always been of the highest quality, this is the first major investment in the spaces since they were built in 1972, and we are eager for our facilities to match the quality of the teaching and learning that happens here every day.

The transformation is not limited to our physical facilities. As you know, BCC is in the midst of a very exciting Strategic Planning process to guide us as we create a vision for BCC worthy of the aspirations of our students, and the economic goals of the communities we serve.

Our alumni are living proof that you can start here and go anywhere. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kennedy
President

President Ellen Kennedy (right) with students and faculty at a Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity work site on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.
Make an Impact at BCC through the Annual Fund

Did you know that state support for BCC covers about 34 percent of college operations? Your donations to the Annual Fund make a tremendous difference in the quality of the teaching and learning experience at BCC every day.

Your gifts recently provided needed equipment in classrooms and labs, such as microscopes, software, smart boards, and new lighting and sound in the Boland Theatre.

In addition, the Foundation Board sets aside a small sum of Annual Fund money to be allocated by a competitive grant process for unique learning experiences, often off-campus, allowing for heuristic learning beyond classroom walls.

This past fall, Associate Professor Maura Delaney led a group of students in her honors Graphic Novel class to New York City. They toured the Museum of Cartoon and Comic Art and visited the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. The grant funded the students’ train travel and museum admission. The students raised funds to offset other trip expenses.

BCC student Allison Pierce said, “Going on this trip with the Honors Graphic Novel class really made me feel like being an Honors student was worth the effort. I feel very privileged…and I believe my experiences will enrich me for the rest of my life.”

“This trip was very easily the highlight of my semester,” exclaimed Dylan Carman. “Without the help from the BCC Foundation, I doubt we would have all been able to go.”

This is how you make an impact with your gift to the Annual Fund. Please consider a gift via the enclosed envelope or online at berkshirecc.edu/give.

DID YOU KNOW?

BCC is now offering its alumni a FREE membership to a new financial program called SALT.

SALT can help you take control of your finances so that you can live well today while planning for tomorrow. Manage your student loans, apply for scholarships to continue your education, and even browse internship and career opportunities.

It’s easy to join! Simply sign up online at www.saltmoney.org or call a loan counselor at 866-493-5563 (Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST and Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST)
RECENT GIFTS RECEIVED
(as of March 31, 2015)

In honor of...
Taking Flight Blog
Patricia Brien
Dan Broad ’02
Jeff Doscher
Paul Durwin
Rev. Christopher Fedoryshyn
Larry Greenapple
Barbara Hochberg
Intrepid Travelers Everywhere
Donald and Marion Lathrop
Linda Milne Matteodo ’88
David Patterson
Hank Payne
Nancy Walker

In memory of...
Roz Avnet
James Border
Jay Braus
Denise Brown
Jack Cooper
Josephine Dellea
Connor Graham
Joseph Guertin
Rudy Hoeltzel
Emily Jahn ’65
Brian Jollimore
Elizabeth Kassel
Fred Katz
Zelma ’86 and Herbert Krasnow
Brian Leslie
Ruth McKnight
Joel Morris
Sandi Rubin
Mona Sherman
Nancy Sherman ’88
Sylvia Stein
Regina Wink
Anne Everest Wojtkowski

The Berkshire County Women’s Republican Club recently donated the balance of its treasury to the BCC Foundation endowed scholarship fund in memory of Rita Spratlin. The gift is a tribute to Rita’s many years of Club service. Rita was a strong proponent of education, and club members wish to honor her memory by ensuring that more BCC students can access scholarship support in perpetuity.

The 14th annual event was held on Sun., Feb. 8 at BCC’s Paterson Field House with more than 100 dogs and their owners filling the gym. Proceeds from the popular community event support the BCC Foundation Annual Fund.

Thank you to...
Berkshire Humane Society, Master of Ceremonies Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Ringmaster and BCC Foundation President Gene Dellea, and Sponsors Allen Heights Veterinary Clinic, Berkshire Eye Center, Camp Wagalot, The Clip Shop, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Dr. Edwin Helitzer, Pittsfield Veterinary Hospital and Dr. Terrence Sinclair. Thank you also to the Berkshire County Sheriff’s Department, and Jennifer Brown.

We are pleased to share that BCC was named to the President’s 2014 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, in recognition of the institution’s exemplary community service, Service-Learning and community engagement in 2012–13.

BCC students contributed
8,512 HOURS
of community service!

As part of the 2015 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, BCC students, joined by faculty and staff prepared and served a hot meal to our neighbors through the Harvest Table in downtown Pittsfield.
Planned gifts through your estate can create a permanent legacy while making a lasting impact on students’ lives.

The BCC Foundation can help you and your advisors create a gift that fits your life, your values, and your charitable and financial goals.

For more information, please contact Craig Smith, Executive Director of the BCC Foundation at 413-236-2185 or csmith@berkshirecc.edu.

The 1960 Society recognizes individuals who have made arrangements, through their wills or estate plans, to leave a gift to the BCC Foundation.

**1960 Society Members**

Anonymous
Rev. Canon Stephen Booth
Thomas Carpenter*
Grace Hampel*
Cornelia Hourihan*
Aldo Manfredo*
Daniel Minneci
Faith Mong*
Barbara A. Nichols*
Charlott Powell*
Mark Rosso
Alexander Sharpe*
Beth Wallace
Richard Whitehead

*deceased

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**OLLI at BCC and You!**

**A Special Deal for BCC Alumni**

Berkshire OLLI (the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College) provides the joy of lifelong learning to over 900 active, engaged people over the age of 50 in the Berkshires who enjoy exercising their mind and meeting new friends through terrific courses, special events, trips and speakers.

OLLI, a volunteer-led membership organization, is offering BCC alumni one free course (a $45 value!) if they join OLLI before June 30, 2015. (This offer applies to new or lapsed members only.)

A membership is only $50 a year. Once you join, you can take classes for just $45 each, $90 for two or three, or $100 for as many classes as you wish in a semester! Plus OLLI members receive special discounts from our cultural partners, and on our trips, speaker series and special events.

OLLI’s summer session of classes runs June 1–29 at locations in Pittsfield, Lenox and Great Barrington. Classes range from “Writing Your Own Stories” and “The Baker’s Kitchen” to “Current Issues in Latin American/U.S. Relations” and “All Politics is Local: Conversations with our State Legislators.” There are no tests, no homework and no grades — simply the joy of learning with others.

For more information or a free catalog, please call 413-236-2190, email olli@berkshirecc.edu or visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org.

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**College Club Art Show**

The College Club, in partnership with Berkshire Community College (BCC), invites artists to submit paintings for a juried art show as part of the College Club’s Centennial Celebration. The theme of the show is Women on the Move: A Hundred-Year Journey.

A $500 award will be given for the winning entry. In addition, the painting will be hung permanently in BCC’s Jonathan Edwards Library to commemorate the College Club’s centennial. Honorable mention awards will be given to a BCC student as well as a BCC graduate.

To obtain an application, visit [www.berkshirecc.edu/artcontest](http://www.berkshirecc.edu/artcontest). The deadline for submitting an application and painting is May 21, 2015.

The Art Show will be held June 19 through July 10 at the Koussevitzky Art Gallery at BCC. An opening reception will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on June 19.
BCC Alumni Notes

1975
Lisa Fletcher-Udel (Human Services) became the Legislative Aide to State Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield) in December 2014. Lisa earned a B.A. from Fairley Dickson College after BCC and most recently worked in a number of positions at the Berkshire Area Health Education Center.

1986
Daniel Kurpaska (Environmental Science) is an Environmental Engineer with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in the Western Regional Office.

1996
Jennifer Larkin (Selected Studies) has joined BCC as the Assistant to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement. The newest member of BCC’s Development, Alumni and Foundation team, Jennifer most recently worked at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health as a Development Strategist. Prior to that, she worked at the Berkshire Museum. Jennifer transferred to the University at Albany after BCC, earning a B.A. in Mediterranean Archaeology.

2002
Mark Orlowski (Liberal Arts/Peace and World Order) is founder of the Sustainable Endowments Institute, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in May 2015.

2003
Erin Murphy (Fine Arts/Visual Arts) has joined BCC as a graphic designer. Most recently Erin worked for JF Griffin Publishing in Williamstown, Mass., and for her own company, Inklings Design. After BCC, Erin earned a bachelor’s in fine arts at Massachusetts College of Art.

2006
Rebecca Martin (Environmental Science) is a Project Manager at Berkshire Photovoltaic Services in Adams, Mass.

2009
Simon Brown (Fine Arts-Music) was commissioned to write a piece for the Westfield State Symphonic Band to honor the school’s 175th Anniversary. The work was premiered at Westfield State in April 2015.

2011
Zach Marcotte (Business Administration) has been certified as a retirement planning counselor by the College of Financial Planning. Zach is an associate financial adviser and compliance officer for Berkshire Money Management. He earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from MCLA.

Jennifer Ressler (Human Services/Social Work Transfer) was appointed as an Outreach Coordinator for Berkshire Community Action Council’s Project Reconnect. She will graduate in May 2015 from Elms College with a B.S.W.

2013
Janet Notarfrancesco (Human Services/Social Work Transfer) was appointed Director of Community Partnerships at Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc. She will graduate in May 2015 from Elms College with a B.S.W.

Recyclemania!
The 2015 Recyclemania results were recently announced and BCC finished with a 70.6% recycling rate. This was enough for BCC to finish in the “Elite Eight:”

- 8th in the nation (Out of 232 colleges and universities.)
- 1st in Massachusetts (Ahead of Harvard, MIT, BC, etc…)
- 2nd among 2-Year Colleges

Next year’s goal: 75% recycling rate!

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE? Email us at alumni@berkshirecc.edu or call 413-236-2188 and we’ll include you in the next edition of BCC’s Alumni Notes.
BCC Community
Garden and Orchard

BCC is seeking to provide a sustainable model for a healthy campus culture through the creation of the BCC Community Garden and Orchard. The garden will be an outdoor, open-air classroom and will serve as an educational tool for BCC’s Culinary Arts, Hospitality, and Environmental Science programs. In addition, the harvest will benefit all in BCC’s cafeteria. As part of the project, an orchard will also be planted. The project, which will be located adjacent to the Susan B. Anthony Annex, will include a series of raised beds, mini-greenhouses, a separate pollinating garden and ornamental trellises, as well as additional native plant species.

There are a limited number of naming opportunities as part of this project. You can help Berkshire Community College with this exciting project while creating an enduring legacy. Your donation can make a memorable graduation gift or remember a milestone event.

For more information, contact BCC’s Vice President for Institutional Advancement Craig Smith at 413-236-2185 or csmith@berkshirecc.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Dale Baity, ‘91 ▪ Gary Beaudreau, ’72 ▪ Dorothy Brimmer, ’75 ▪ Ryan Cook, ’12
Maureen Chadbourne, ’85 ▪ Monica Curry, ’88 ▪ Bonnie-Lou Demastrie, ’87
Julie Heath-Johnson, ’89 ▪ Barbara Junkins, ’02 ▪ Bruce Kilmer, ’85 ▪ James LeVardi, ’86
Pamela McMullen, ’75 ▪ Ann Nagelschmidt, ’77 ▪ Colleen Neff, ’82 ▪ Jane Petrie, ’81
Mary Welch, ’04 ▪ G. Peter Whitney, ’70

Liz Kassel

We regret to report that Liz Kassel, the Director of BCC’s Nursing Program, passed away on Feb. 8, 2015 after a short battle with a very aggressive cancer. She will be greatly missed.