

THE UNION FORWARD

HCCC PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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In This Issue

	Letter From the PA	
Michael Ferlise	President's Desk	2
Lauren Drew	Vice President's Report	4
Claudia Delgado	Treasurer's Report	5
	Tenure-Track Interview	
Heather Connors	Prep Panel Report	6
	Report Out: NJEA Equity	
Raffi Manjikian	Alliance Conference	7
	Tenure and Promotion	8
	From Faculty To Dean:	
Eric Adamson	Dr. Burl Yearwood	10
Jeanne Baptiste	From The Black Table	12
	Book Report: Will Artificial	
Carrie Rong-Xiao	Intelligence Outsmart Us?	13
	Two Paintings Donated to	
Richard Skinner	HCCC Art Collection	14
	In Case You Missed It	15
	Johanna Van Gendt	
	Scholarship	18
	Javedd Khan Essay Prize	18

Also Inside: How to Join the HCCC Faculty Professional Association • Student Life and Leadership Academic Collaboration Grant



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Letter From the PA President's Desk

Michael Ferlise

Growing and Moving Forwards

Friends and Colleagues,

This spring your union leadership made sure to get out of the house and take to the road, attending a number of conferences and union events for the advancement of faculty and community colleges throughout New Jersey and the US. Moving forward with our plans to reach out beyond our college, I and several of our PA members have started working together in solidarity with other unions, professional organizations, and government officials on issues ranging from governmental and legislative action, increased funding and support for public education, strengthening union rights, collective bargaining, shared governance, and academic freedom, to maintaining classroom integrity and high quality education.

As Professional Association members, our dues go to several larger union affiliations that represent us, as well as K-12 schools, and other community colleges. The Hudson County Educational Association (HCEA), the New Jersey Educational Association (NJEA), and the National Education Association (NEA) offer us important opportunities to make our voices heard and exert greater influence on an array of educational issues at the county, state and national levels.

Case in point, at the recent NJEA Higher Ed. conference in Princeton, NJ, this past April. Aron Fitchner, the new chair of the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges (NJCCC), was an invited guest speaker who emphasized the need for collaboration between our two educational organizations. He asked that the NJEA and the NJCCC work together to increase funding for community colleges in the state of New Jersey. He pointed to our common interests in receiving increased community college funding and the alarming fact that Higher Education in New Jersey receives some of the lowest funding throughout the United States.

In response to Mr. Fitchner's offer, the NJEA Higher Ed. committee, of which I, as a local president, am a participating and voting member, voted to form a Higher Ed. affinity group consisting of union presidents. Our intention is to meet with the NJCCC in order to facilitate a greater dialog and coordination of our common goals and interests and to give higher ed. faculty a representative voice among community college presidents in New Jersey. I also raised the issue of shared governance to Chairman Fitchner, which I believe is very important to higher ed. Without the binding authority of faculty-driven governance at our colleges, faculty will have little or no say about where those increased funds will go or what priorities they will serve should our New Jersey colleges receive them.

Equally important, our PA Political Outreach Committee will soon be meeting with the HCEA, which has recently screened local candidates running for county office whose political programs and policy agendas support or strengthen public education and their academic unions. The NEA has been promoting an important agenda for social justice throughout the US.

Our county, state and national affiliations move us beyond the immediacy of our college and are very important relations for us and other locals, who might otherwise remain powerless and voiceless, to develop. And it is worth emphasizing that the financial support of our local dues has been vital in sustaining our own organization's activities and events and our attendance at various conferences and dinners.

Reaching out beyond our institution has also given us the opportunity to see what working and teaching conditions are like for faculty and staff at other community colleges. As you all know, both the PA and HCCC Administration have striven to work together in a non-adversarial manner for no less than four highly productive years, resulting in more equitable and fair practices across the college. This, unfortunately, is a rare sight throughout higher ed. today. We have since discovered that ours is an "unusual" set of arrangements and relations between "labor and management." I feel great pride in this fact as it is the outcome of hard work and deliberate efforts on all sides. Were it easily attainable everybody would be doing it, which they definitely are not.

As we get a closer look at some of our sister institutions throughout New Jersey and the US today we see the terrible dispiriting circumstances under which many of them struggle daily. Fellow teachers and their local unions endure incredible hostility from their Boards, local governments, and college presidents, resulting in deeply embittered battles that waste enormous energy, creative talent, and the good will so essential to any productive and collaborative efforts. And to what end and whose benefit? Not the students. Not the faculty. And not the college. Luckily this has not been our fate. We have wisely avoided those existential dead ends.

But our own past has made us mindful to establish enforceable, binding rules that limit the potentially corrosive dangers of unchecked power and arbitrary authority. While, during sunny times, we have the opportunity, it is our responsibility to plan ahead and protect the institution of the college not just for us now, but for the future should the leadership change and things not be so sunny. When our institutions, to paraphrase the always instructive Frederick Douglass, are in the hands of good "men" all is well enough, he says. However, our institutions should be "so shaped that when even in the hands of a bad man we shall be safe."

To our expanding collaborative efforts and continued sunny times!

Vice President's Report

Lauren Drew

It's springtime, and our union is buzzing with activity!

This issue of *The Union Forward* marks the third semester in a row that the PA newsletter has been released. With each semester, the page count grows, as does the anticipation of its publication and the interest in being part of it. *The Union Forward* is constructed by a team of volunteers, who dedicate their time to lifting their colleagues' voices, shining light on their accomplishments, and strengthening the communication within our union. The newsletter, in a way, is emblematic of where our union is today, and is highly promising for its future. We, the members of this union, are a devoted and evermore organized collective, who work for the common good!

This semester, some of the many accomplishments of our member-run PA committees include:

- The Faculty Recognition dinner, held this May, which acknowledges and celebrates the numerous accomplishments of our colleagues and other members of our college community
- The official launch of the Faculty-Student Relations Committee, which has built relationships with student leaders through participation in SGA events and a SGA – PA dinner
- The sustained action of the Membership Committee, which just this semester has successfully recruited five new full-time faculty as members of the PA
- The expansion of the Political Outreach Committee, which is increasingly partnering with the Hudson County Educational Association (HCEA) and the NJEA's Government Relations Committee to represent our shared interests

This fall, we can look forward to the continuation of a few newly established traditions, including a welcome dinner and orientation for new full-time faculty sponsored by the Membership Committee.

The Grievance Committee will once again provide training for PA compliance officers serving on tenure, promotion, and sabbatical committees to ensure that candidates receive fair and unbiased consideration. The committee continues to represent faculty interests and rights when warranted.

As in previous years, the Tenure and Promotion Preparation Committee will host multiple events to support faculty in preparing to submit tenure portfolios and give their tenure interviews. Next spring, the committee also plans to launch its first promotion prep event.

Another exciting development in progress is the creation of a new PA website, coming this fall 2023. We have contracted our own Jeremiah Teipen to build a site that will allow us to post the contract, our newsletter, *The Perennial*, agendas, minutes, a shared a calendar of events, pages for each of our committees, and more.

Unions are only as strong as their members, and we count ourselves lucky to have such a vibrant and activated membership, who consistently contribute inside and outside of union meetings. Together, we continue to build a more organized, active, and responsive union. Thank you for all that you do!

Treasurer's Report

Claudia Delgado

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Treasurer of the Professional Association for the first semester of the year in 2023.

In the month of March, our President Michael Ferlise and I closed our two Certificates of Deposit (CD) in Provident Bank and opened a new CD at 4% annual interest for 13 months in the same bank. The 4% rate represents a significant increase from the previous interest rate of 0.1%.

Checking Account	\$9,739.63
Certificate of Deposit	\$25,000.00
Total Balance	\$34,739.63
Year to Date Expenditures	\$4,027.15

I would like to thank you, the members of the Professional Association, for your confidence and continued support of our Union.

Union Supports Tenure-Track Faculty with Interview Prep Panel

Heather Connors

On March 21st, five members of our community joined the ranks of tenured faculty here at HCCC. The Board of Trustees meeting was a moment of celebration and acknowledgment of the hard work that the candidates put in during their years of service. To get to this point, candidates had the support of family, friends, and colleagues at the institution. During the meeting, Union President Michael Ferlise noted the dedication of not only the candidates, but those who worked on the tenure review committee. These members are one part of a system of support offered at the college to make the tenure journey a rewarding and successful process.



Faculty members listen to Professor Elana Winslow speak via Webex



Dean Burl Yearwood sits at the panel with Professor Eric Adamson, Professor Katie Buckley, and Dean Alison Wakefield

One such support comes directly from our union: The PA offers workshops for tenure-track faculty and lecturers that review the tenure process. Twice a year, volunteers that make up tenured faculty and administrators alike offer their time to discuss and attempt to give transparency to the tenure process for candidates. The workshops cover the portfolio materials, important deadlines for tenure candidates, what to expect during the tenure interview, and time for a Q&A between tenure hopefuls and tenured faculty and deans.

This past fall, I attended the tenure interview prep workshop. During this hybrid session, a panel of tenured faculty (some of whom now hold administrative roles) provided history and clarity on the stress-inducing tenure interview. The panel consisted of: Eric Adamson, Kathryn Buckley, Michael Ferlise, Mohammad Qasem, Dr. Alison Wakefield, Elana Winslow, Dr. Burl Yearwood, with Lauren Drew moderating. Panel members provided important basics such as the time limit and structure of the committee and interview. Each member was also forthcoming about difficulties they faced during their own interviews, while still providing genuine assurance to those of us on the tenure path.

An important matter that came to light during this session was the evolution of the tenure interview at HCCC; with the help of the union, interview questions are now standardized for all candidates in the same year. This helps provide all candidates with an interview that is fair and equal. The meeting concluded with a robust Q&A session between the audience and panelists.

Thanks to the honesty, humor, and insight from the interview prep panel, I left the discussion with plenty of ideas and reassurances. As my tenure portfolio submission date and interview draw closer, I'll be sure to be in attendance for more perspectives and a boost of confidence that this goal is achievable.

Report Out: NJEA Equity Alliance Conference

Raffi Manjikian

On January 13th and 14th, the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) hosted the Equity Alliance Conference at the Delta Woodbridge in Iselin, New Jersey. As an active dues paying member of the Professional Association (PA) of HCCC and the current Cochair of the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI), I was delighted to be sponsored by the PA to attend.

On the first day of the conference, participants were asked to participate in one of the nine tracks offered. The nine tracks consisted of the following: 1) The History, Purpose and Contemporary Relevance of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 2) Community Cultural Wealth (CCW) in Practice, 3) Community Organizing, 4) Humanizing to Healing, 5) Inter-generational Organizing, 6) Issues-based Organizing, 7) Power of the Pen (POP) Writing Circles, 8) Racial Literacy Circles, and 9) Understanding Your Union: Governance Fundamentals. The track that I chose was Intergenerational Organizing.

Intergenerational Organizing focused on generational worldviews. From Baby Boomers to Gen X and Millennials to Gen Z, our generational worldviews are largely shaped by the historic events of our time and by the technology available during that period. This session took a close look at the nuances between the generations, intending to expand our relationship-building skills toward a stronger, more inclusive, and welcoming union. The presenters emphasized the importance of including everyone from different generations, and reminded the audience that these voices should be heard regardless of what generation they came from. Everyone has a unique story as well as skills, knowledge, and resources that should be shared and heard. This conversation provides pathways to showcase diversity, equity, and inclusion. Multiple identities can be represented in an organization with consistent recognizing and redistribution of power; this leads to caring about and wanting to hear thoughts, ideas, opinions, and perspectives from all individuals.

The second day of the conference was the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human and Civil Rights Celebration. On this day, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with the highlight of the event, the keynote speaker Larry Hamm. Mr. Hamm discussed his constant fight for social, political, economic, and criminal justice reform. His activism continues to inspire, enact change, and bring people of diverse backgrounds together. Additionally, awards were presented to individuals and organizations whom the NJEA found exemplifying of the ideals and beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This conference was very informative and helped me to expand my knowledge of different DEI topics, especially those related to intergenerational organizing. I have already begun to incorporate my learnings into the classroom. I thank the PA and the PA executive board for funding this and supporting my participation in the Equity Alliance Conference.

Tenure and Promotion Announcements

The faculty members at HCCC accomplish many amazing things, but one of the most exciting is being awarded tenure and promotion. To make it through the process is no easy feat. Congratulations to all of the faculty members awarded tenure and promotion this year!

Tenure



Fidelis Foda-Kahouo

Professor Foda-Kahouo spent more than a decade at HCCC as a student, member of the Security Department, and staff member of the Academic Foundations Mathematics Department. He has been an Instructor since 2017. Professor Foda-Kahouo believes that besides being a vocation, teaching is an art that requires creativity, patience, resilience, and a strong desire to improve and learn every day. Professor Foda-Kahouo states that the continuous mentorship of his peers facilitates his personal and professional growth.



Karen Hom-Galli

Professor Hom-Galli is an English instructor and coordinates College Composition II. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from The New School, Master of Arts degree in Writing & Literature from New York University, and is currently a doctoral student at Drew University for literary and historical studies. Her current research includes the historical study of Asian Americans during the pandemic and graphic novels. She has presented at national conferences for the flipped classroom, community and engagement in the classroom, and identity through ethnography.



Clive Li

Dr. Clive Li is a nationally renowned research scientist who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and a Doctorate degree in Materials Science and Engineering from Stony Brook University. Previously he was a research scientist at Amco Polymers. He holds patents on Biodegradable Diaper, Eggshell Bio-composite materials, and a Wearable Aromatic Device. Dr. Li helped create the HCCC Associate in Applied Science degree program in Advanced Manufacturing. Dr. Li was honored with the AACC 2023 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Recognition.



Jihan Nakla

Dr. Nakhla has been teaching at HCCC since 2015. Previously, she taught at Bergen and Passaic County Community Colleges. She is dedicated to the success of Medical Assisting, a diverse student body. She incorporates a variety of teaching strategies to meet students' learning needs, promote her students' success, and prepare them for the licensure examination to work in the field. Dr. Nakhla is an active member of numerous committees. She co-chaired the medical assisting accreditation committee and received a 5-year approval of CAAHEP accreditation in 2023.



Fatma Tat

Dr. Tat is a Chemistry Instructor and Garden State S-STEM Scholarship site coordinator at HCCC. She served on both the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the Technology Committee. Currently, she serves as Co-Chair of the Academic Senate and Co-Advisor for the HCCC Chemistry Club. She has participated in numerous research projects at Rockefeller University and NYU. She was awarded the NISOD Award for Teaching Excellence and Philip Johnston Award for Excellence in Teaching: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Classroom in 2022.

Promotion

Promoted from Associate Professor to Professor:

Claudia Delgado, Professor of Academic Foundations Mathematics

Dr. Nadia Hedhli, Professor of Biology

Catherine Sweeting, Professor of English

Dr. Shannonine Caruana, Professor of ESL

Promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor:

Dr. Sirhan Abdullah, Associate Professor of Health Services

Dr. Peter Cronrath, Associate Professor of Business

Evgeniya Kozlenko, Associate Professor of ESL

Kewal Krishan, Associate Professor of Academic Foundations Mathematics

Lester McRae, Associate Professor of Business

Elana Winslow, Associate Professor of Business

Craig McLaughlin, Associate Professor of Psychology

From Faculty to Administrator: Dr. Burl Yearwood

Eric Adamson

Faculty and administrators are always trying to find some common ground while navigating the challenges of higher education. In this series, I am speaking with administrators who are former faculty members to get their perspective on their role as an administrator and how their experience as a faculty member helps them succeed. In this issue, I sat down with Dr. Burl Yearwood, Dean of STEM, to ask him about building relationships with faculty members and what makes a good dean.



Thank you, Burl, for sitting down with me to answer some questions about your time as a dean. You were a tenured faculty member before you were an administrator. Can you tell me a little bit about your transition into an administrator? What drove the decision?

I spent about 15 years at LaGuardia Community College, which is one of the colleges in the City University of New York system. After a long time as a faculty member, probably about ten years, I made the move into administration as chairperson of the Natural Sciences department. The decision was based on the fact that the previous chairperson was retiring, and he had asked, before he retired, about taking over his position. I had already spoken to other faculty members who encouraged me to do this. I was strongly encouraged by the faculty members in the department to take over this responsibility.

It's always a tricky transition when you move from working with colleagues to supervising them. It did help that I was a senior faculty. It also helped that I was a course coordinator, so I did have some supervisory advisory experience. It did help that the other faculty were aware of this before it happened. If it had been a sudden transition, it probably would have been more difficult, but everyone knew what was going to happen. The chairperson is a voted-upon position. You need a majority and so, if you're appointed as chairperson, it sort of implies that you have the backing of a majority of the faculty. It was not easy to suddenly develop those administrative supervisory skills. You have to make that move from these are the people you work with to these are now the people that you supervise. You are responsible for making sure they accomplish certain tasks and these are also now the people that you are responsible for - to make sure they progress along to tenure and beyond.

You are very well liked among the STEM faculty. What is your philosophy for building and maintaining positive relationships with your faculty members?

I would say two actually interrelated factors: trust and communication. So, you have to build that trust between you and the faculty members. They have to know, they have to come to believe, that you have their best interest at heart and that doesn't happen overnight. As a dean or an administrator, you have to realize that it's going to take time. And the second factor is communication. You have to be up front in your communication about your expectations. You have to be sure that everyone knows what is expected. When they do things well, congratulate them.

When they don't do things well, then provide constructive criticism. Try not to confuse being friendly with being friends. There is a difference. That separation is necessary if you're going to be effective and, honestly, if the faculty are going to be effective in what you're asking them to do. Getting that separation is not easy without offending anyone, but it's needed.

What kind of value do you think being a former faculty member adds to your role as a dean?

I think it adds immense value. It allows you to relate to faculty in a way that a non-faculty could not relate to. A former full-time faculty member can appreciate and empathize that faculty have to teach, grade, advise students formally and informally, participate in numerous committees, and take care of their professional development, while at the same time worrying about their progression to tenure. So you understand all the stressors that faculty go through and can relate to those stresses as a former full-time faculty member.

If you were to evaluate yourself as a dean, what kind of criteria would you use to determine your efficacy? Or in other words, what makes a good dean?

You know, the criteria and what makes you a good dean are two different things. Yes, they're related, but they are two different things. You know, the criteria are more about a mostly quantitative measurement of your efficiency. What makes a good dean is more about the qualitative part of the job, the part that can't be measured just by numbers. It really boils down to one thing. Personal relationships. Being a good dean is about managing personal relationships and that's an extremely complicated challenge. I would say what makes you a good dean is understanding your responsibility. Being able to relate to faculty. Being empathetic to both their academic and non-academic issues. Making sure that, in your own way, you show that you not only care about what the faculty are doing, but that essentially you have their best interest at heart even when it may not seem like you do. They have to know that even though an initiative might come from the top if you're pushing it forward, there's a reason for it. So, I would say those are some of the things that make you a good dean. If you can handle the interpersonal relationships, build that trust, and have that communication, then you are more likely to succeed.

There are other factors in being a good dean. There's being organized, having time management skills, being able to handle different assignments, being able to communicate orally and written, being able to understand the culture of the institution, understand pedagogical skills. I'm referring to technical things, but again, if your faculty don't believe in you and they don't trust you or they don't respect you, then I don't care how good you are technically, you're not going to succeed in your dean responsibilities.

From 'The Black Table'

Jeanne Baptiste

The concept for a Black Faculty Caucus at HCCC has been bandied about for a number of years but was revisited in the Fall of 2021 after conversations with Dr. Paula Roberson of the Center for Teaching Learning and Innovation (CTLI) and Lilisa Williams, Director of Faculty and Staff Development on the marginalization and even erasure of black women in leadership; the role of pedagogy in not only removing but also, unfortunately, creating barriers for students; the academic performance of African American/black students, especially black men, and bringing them to excellence; bringing more black men to [Boardroom tables]. The BFC held its first official meeting on February, 4, 2022 and convenes the third Friday of every month.

In order to be rooted before burgeoning, at present the caucus comprises full-time faculty only: Dr. Patricia Jones-Lewis, PA Rep; Dr. Jerry Lamb, Treasurer; Dr. V.B. Joasil, MD., Secretary; Bernard Adamitey; Dorothy Anderson; Fidelis Foda-Kahouo; Lester McCrae; Danielle Ondieki; and Dr. Jeanne P. Baptiste, Chair. From Summer 2023, however, Adjunct Faculty will also be invited to join. Eventually, we plan to incorporate administrators.

The nomenclature Black Faculty Caucus may be a bit of a misnomer because we are very student oriented. We serve as an additional, not separate, branch of HCCC's DEI mission. Our four primary goals are to:

1. Promote the interests of African American/Black students and faculty at Hudson County Community College
2. Recruit, retain, and increase to 100% the graduation rate of African American/Black students (yes, very ambitious)
3. Advocate for the increased recruitment/representation of Black faculty and staff

4. Support the Academic and Professional Development of Black Faculty

In the year that the BFC has been in existence, three members have been promoted and three have received tenure. We have held two student-faculty meet and greet events, one virtual on September 29, 2022, and an in-person on December 15, 2022. Dr. Paula Roberson has been very generous in allowing the BFC to access the CTLI office. In attempting to meet students where they are, the BFC also has an Instagram account and a QR-code for students to join/follow.

The BFC emails students periodically to remind them of its existence, to encourage them to access HCCC's support services, and to invite students to seek the caucus' help with any obstacles. We want students to internalize that their academic journey is *not* one of marginalization at best and isolation at worst. So far, our members have helped students resolve a Work-Life portfolio issue, an inaccurate GPA query, and struggles with coursework.

The BFC also created the criteria for and selected the presentation for the CTLI's 2023 Social Justice Symposium Recognition Award.

The BFC wishes to acknowledge and thank sincerely the following offices and people for their support: the CTLI and its Director Dr. Paula Roberson; the Office of Academic Affairs and its VP Dr. Daryl Jones, as well as, its Director of Faculty and Staff Development, Lilisa Williams; the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and its VP Dr. Yeurys Pujols; our very own Professional Association; and all the faculty and staff who have responded to our requests.



Hudson County Community College

BLACK FACULTY CAUCUS

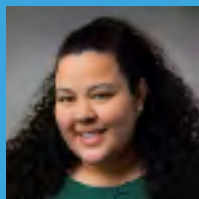
Student Life and Leadership's Academic Collaboration Grant Funding

Student Life and Leadership earmarks thousands of dollars every semester to support co-curricular events at HCCC, including guest speakers in the classroom, off-campus site visits and trips, and more. These events support the office's mission of educating and engaging the whole student through high-quality activities that complement and enhance the academic experience.



Want to take your students to a museum? Want to bring a speaker into your classroom? Student life can help make this happen. The Student Life team can help you organize your event, arrange transportation, and try to fulfill any additional needs.

To get started on a collaboration, reach out to vgerosimo@hccc.edu with the details of your request or any questions you might have.



Book Report: Will Artificial Intelligence Outsmart Us?

by Steven Hawking

Carrie Rong-Xiao

Will artificial intelligence outsmart us? With this question in my mind, I read an article published by Stephen Hawking, who passed away in 2018 as the most renowned scientist since Einstein.

In his article, Hawking discusses the potential risks and benefits of artificial intelligence (AI). He acknowledges the potential benefits of AI, such as increased efficiency and improved productivity, but he also warns of the risks associated with the technology.

Hawking argues that as AI systems become more advanced, they could surpass human intelligence, leading to a scenario where machines are capable of designing and building even more advanced machines, creating a cycle of exponential technological advancement. He suggests that this could have profound implications for humanity, potentially leading to a future where machines have complete control over our lives.

Hawking emphasizes the importance of developing safeguards and regulations to ensure that AI systems are designed and used responsibly. He suggests that these regulations should be put in place sooner rather than later, as the potential risks of AI are still largely unknown and could have catastrophic consequences.

As an educator in higher education, the more I explore and incorporate AI into my work the more I am convinced of its benefits. However, we must be cautious and take steps to mitigate the risks associated with its continued advancement. Ongoing collaboration and dialogue between governments, industry, and civil society will be crucial in achieving this goal.

Two Paintings Donated to HCCC Art Collection

Richard Skinner

My great-great grandfather's name was Karl Boettcher. He was born in Germany and apparently traveled a bit in Europe before emigrating to the U.S. in 1883.

One of the castle paintings has a date of 1880.

We don't have firm birth and death dates. My brother has been researching the family tree. The ship manifest has his birth year as 1864, but that would put him in Spain painting at the age of 16. I suspect that he was born 10 years earlier, but that the likely handwritten ship records were incorrectly transcribed.

He moved to Chicago where he married my great-great grandmother Katherine Rosner in 1886. Their daughter Charlotte (my great grandmother) was born in 1889. She gave the paintings to my mother in the 1960s.

We know Katherine remarried when Charlotte was a baby, so we think Karl died. My brother couldn't find any recording of his death (or a divorce, which would have been unusual), and

unfortunately, the 1890 Census records were destroyed in a fire at the Commerce Dept. in the 1920s.

Unfortunately, I don't have much more information. Both my parents have passed (my mom in the 1980s, my dad last year). When he passed, my brothers and sisters decided to donate the paintings (I suggested the HCCC collection) so that they would be preserved and also serve an educational purpose.



In Case You Missed It: Past Events, Achievements, and Activities

Faculty members at HCCC are always up to something. We know you are busy so some of the amazing things our faculty are working on might slip past your radar. We are featuring recent and past events in this space, just in case you missed it.

HCCC Professional Association Attends NJEA Higher Ed Conference and NEA Conference



Prof. Cathy Seidman, Prof. Tony Acevedo, Prof. Michael Ferlise, Prof. Lauren Drew at the NJEA Higher Ed Conference



Prof. Cathy Seidman, Prof. Tony Acevedo, Prof. Lauren Drew at the NJEA Higher Ed Conference



Prof. Tony Acevedo taking pictures of the Golden Gate Bridge.

AACC 2023 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Recognition

Professor Clive Li was awarded the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Recognition award. The award recognizes faculty who demonstrate a passion for and support of students inside and outside the classroom. The award was given at a ceremony in Denver, CO this Spring.



Prof. Clive Li receiving the award from Dr. Walter Bumphus and Dr. Joe Schaffer.

Union City Science Fair

Yamanni Tay, a high school student working under the mentorship of Professor Clive Li, won second place in Environmental Science and Management at the Union City Science Fair. The project was titled *The Effects of Silver Nanoparticles on Worm Farms*.

Scientific Paper Publication

Professor Clive Li published a paper titled "Single-Site Molecular Ruthenium(II) Water-Oxidation Catalysts Grafted into a Polymer-Modified Surface for Improved Stability and Efficiency" in the journal *Chem Electro Chem*.

Poetry Publication

Professor Eric Adamson had a poem published in *Amsterdam Review* titled "carnivorous plants". You can read the poem by following the link in the QR code.



Compost and Recycling Informational



Attendees listening at the informational event.

In celebration of Earth Day, the Environmental Club and STEM Club in collaboration with the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA) hosted a hybrid informational of all things COMPOST and RECYCLING in our rendition of “*KNOW YOUR TRASH*”. Amanda Nesheiwat, Deputy Director of Sustainability and Community Outreach and Wade Frazee, Community Outreach Assistant shared their background and experience in the environmental industry as well as their personal relationships with being stewards of the earth.

Ahmed Eissawi Poetry Event

In coordination with SGA President Sally Elwir, Professor Chris Cody held an Arabic poetry event. The poet was Ahmed Eissawi, a widely published Sufi poet and former Arabic language instructor at the UN and an adjunct professor at NYU. Prof. Eissawi recited two Arabic language poems for the students present and then translated them into English.



Prof. Saliha Yagoubi, Prof. Raffi Manjikian, Sally Elwir, Prof. Ahmed Eissai, and Dr. Chris Cody.

Use of Hydrocolloids in Modern Professional Kitchens - Culinary Professional Development

Culinary faculty joined together for a peer to peer professional development workshop, funded through the Perkins Grant, called Use of Hydrocolloids in Modern Professional Kitchens. The 8 hour class was taught by HCCC adjunct instructor Matthew Siciliano and attended by culinary and baking & pastry instructors, adjuncts and receiving staff. The class began with an in-depth lecture regarding various hydrocolloids, where they are sourced and their uses in the professional kitchen. Students were then shown laboratory demonstrations and participated in group preparations of various recipes. Chef Siciliano was kind enough to provide recipes for various savory and sweet applications of the hydrocolloids, such as guar gum, xanthan gum, carrageenan, gelatin, pectin, agar-agar and locust bean gum. This workshop was especially useful for instructors to then incorporate the skills learned into their course curriculum for the upcoming academic year.



Chef Siciliano instructing attendees while Chef Courtney Payne looks on.

Queerer Than We Can Suppose: How the Language of Sex and Gender Shapes Biological Inquiry

Professor Eric Adamson and The Poetry and Language Collective invited Jess McLaughlin, a biologist, to give a talk titled "Queerer Than We Can Suppose: How the Language of Sex and Gender Shapes Biological Inquiry" discussing their research regarding gender and biology. The talk highlighted both the interest in the social awareness of gender as it stands outside of the gender binary, but also how our understanding of gender and the language we use shapes even the questions we allow ourselves to ask about the world around us.

STEM Courtyard Garden Construction

Professor Clive Li shares progress for the STEM Courtyard Garden, featuring students working hard on the construction.



Earth Day Event with the Environmental Club

On April 15th, 2023, the Environmental Club at Hudson County Community College (HCCC) collaborated with the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA) to set up a tent at Braddock Park in North Bergen to promote environmental awareness on Earth Day.



Prof. Clive Li with Mayor Nicholas Sacco and members of the HCCC Environmental Club at Braddock Park.

Greater New York Regional Conference of the American College of Sports Medicine

Professor Karen Hosick attended the Greater New York Regional Conference of the American College of Sports Medicine with her students.

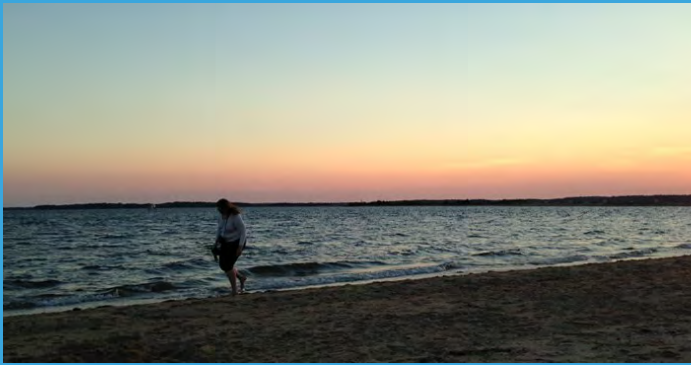


The event was a huge success as the station attracted a large audience of young students and members of the community who were curious to learn more about environmental issues and how they could make a positive impact on the planet. The event was an excellent opportunity for club members to showcase their leadership skills and to make a positive impact on the community.

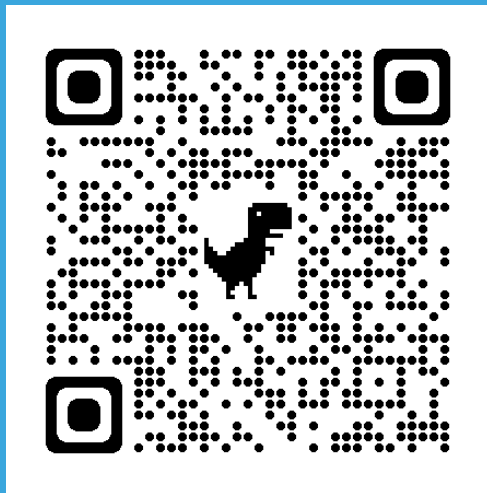
One of the highlights of the event was the visit of Nicholas Sacco, the Mayor of North Bergen, who took the time to talk to HCCC students and engage in conversation about environmental issues. It was a valuable opportunity for club members to showcase their knowledge and passion for the environment and to demonstrate the importance of preserving our planet for future generations.

The Johanna van Gendt Scholarship

The Johanna van Gendt Scholarship was established by Shannonine Caruana and the Development and Planning standing committee of the All College Council in honor of Johanna van Gendt, a professor at HCCC who passed away in 2017. Johanna was a beloved member of the HCCC community and the scholarship seeks to honor her life by providing money for students who have been through the ESL program.



If you are interested in donating to the scholarship, donations can be made to the HCCC Foundation with a specification that the donations go to the Johanna van Gendt scholarship. The QR Code will take you to the donation website.



The Javedd Khan Essay Prize

The Javedd Khan Essay Prizes are awarded in memory of Professor Javedd Khan, who for many years was a beloved teacher of writing, humanities, and moral issues. He was well-known for his insistence that students reach deep into their minds to communicate on issues of cultural importance. He demanded high levels of commitment from his students and refused mediocrity in all its forms. At the same time, his approach was good-humored and empowering. These qualities together earned him much support from students.



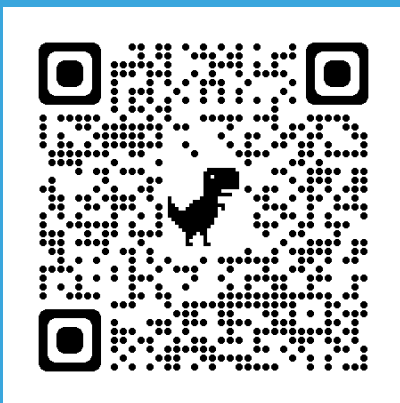
The Javedd Khan Essay Prizes will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate qualities Professor Khan admired, encouraged and developed in his students: commitment to hard work in their own advancement, and a desire to engage as intelligent, well-informed adults with the world around them.



For more detailed information and application form, use the QR code above.

Join the HCCC Professional Association!

The Professional Association, commonly referred to as “the PA,” is the union of the Full-Time Faculty at HCCC. We represent all Full-Time Faculty of HCCC, including instructors, assistant professors, associate professors, and professors. This includes grant-funded instructors and temporary Full-Time Instructors, who are welcome to attend PA meetings.



Joining is easy! The membership application can be completed online by using the QR code above.

Most of the form is straightforward. If any assistance is required when filling out the form, potential members can reach out to the Membership committee chair Laura Samuelsen at lsamuelsen@hccc.edu

Professional Association Membership

A union is only as strong as its members! Like any union, we believe that we are stronger united in solidarity with one another. As a member of the PA, you are part of a community of Full-Time Faculty who have each other's backs. You can be confident that your rights will be protected and defended. You have a voice about issues that concern you, your work conditions, and the integrity of your profession. You have the right to vote on contract ratification and to elect executive officers to represent you and your interests.



HCCC Professional Association members attend the Faculty Recognition Dinner in May, 2022.

Aside from what our local offers, the NJEA provides legal support, a network of other organized professionals (including other unions at New Jersey community colleges), targeted training and workshops, a field representative who joins us at the bargaining table and provides continuous support and advice, funding for our local's events and initiatives, political action at the state and national level which has an important influence on educational policies, and many other services.

For a full description of the benefits, visit <https://www.njea.org/join-njea/>

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Feedback, Questions, or Want to submit for The Union Forward?

Contact the editorial team at eadamson@hccc.edu