

THE LAKER

summer/fall 2019

a publication for alumni and friends of finger lakes community college

WE MADE IT!

Stories of
achievement

Commencement:

A dream realized // pg. 4

Life-changer

Nurse assistants break a barrier // pg. 14

Never too late

Diplomas launch new journeys // pg. 33



openingshot

Titled "The Show Must Go On: A Tribute to Queen," the College's annual Spring Arts Festival paid homage to the iconic 1980s stadium band headed by the late Freddie Mercury. Taking on the personas of Queen band members – from attire to dance moves and vocal stylings – student musicians performed a set list of some of Queen's greatest hits, including "We Will Rock You," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," and "Under Pressure." Read more on page 11. High-resolution photos are available for free download on the College's Flickr page.



President

Robert K. Nye

Chief Advancement Officer

Louis Noce

Director of Development

Brie Chupalio

Director of Community Affairs

Lenore Friend

Editor

Jessica Youngman
Public Relations and Events Coordinator

Contributing Writers

Lenore Friend
Director of Community Affairs

Lisa Scott

Alumni Engagement Coordinator

Jessica Youngman

Public Relations and Events Coordinator

Design and Layout

Sarah R. Butler

Photography

Rikki Van Camp (including cover photo)

Kris Dreessen

Amanda Whitbeck

Jessica Youngman

Cover photo by Rikki Van Camp shows
Samantha Blair '19; see story on page 10.

The Laker is produced by the Advancement Department at Finger Lakes Community College. Advancement includes the offices of Community Affairs and Alumni Affairs as well as the FLCC Foundation.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor or official College policies. Finger Lakes Community College does not discriminate based on an individual's race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction.

Connect with us

Finger Lakes Community College
3325 Marvin Sands Drive
Canandaigua, NY 14424
Email: alumni@flcc.edu
Phone: (585) 785-1454

www.facebook.com/fingerlakescommunitycollege

[@flcc_connects](https://www.instagram.com/flcc_connects)

[@flcc_connects](https://www.tiktok.com/@flcc_connects)

from the president

Dear Readers,

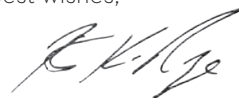
Welcome to The Laker, an update of our magazine for alumni and friends of the college. Let me give you a brief tour of our new publication, starting with the name.

Many of you remember the college as Community College of the Finger Lakes. Those of you who attended after 1992 only know it as FLCC. No matter the date any of us joined the College – as a student, an employee or a supporter – we are all Lakers. I often encounter people visiting campus after many years who say it looks different, but it is still “home.” Perhaps that is because FLCC is not so much a place as it is a community.

To that end, The Laker strives to keep us connected with more College news. Take, for example, ArtSpace36, the new FLCC gallery in downtown Canandaigua, described in the Campus Happenings section (see page 10). This project, inspired by our most recent strategic plan, blends our modern identity with our earliest days. ArtSpace36 is next door to the site of the first art classroom and gallery, and it exemplifies what the College has always been all about: accessibility and personal growth.

Our new magazine also has more room for photos and alumni updates – after all, there are now more than 28,000 alumni – and an expanded events section so you have further opportunities to engage with all of us in the Laker community.

Best wishes,



Robert Nye
President of FLCC



President Robert Nye shares
a moment with a 2019 graduate.

THE LAKER SUMMER/FALL 2019 CONTENTS



pages 18–22
**Alumni of
Distinction and
Foundation Awards**

**ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT:**
Lester
Mayers '17
page 16



From the Cover:
**COMMENCEMENT
RECAP** pages 4–7



**SAVE
the
DATE**
pages
29–32

**CLASS
notes**
pages
24–27



CAMPUS HAPPENINGS
pages 8–15

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Tucked inside this issue of The Laker, you will find an envelope marked “Count Me In!” Please consider making a gift to support student success at FLCC.

By giving to Alumni Association Projects, you are supporting networking events that connect current FLCC students with alumni in their fields of interest, alumni reunion activities, and alumni recognition opportunities.



By giving to Alumni Association Scholarships, you are supporting students like Amber LeMay, at left, achieve educational and career goals. Amber has just started her first year at FLCC and hopes to study languages so she can travel to Spain and work as a translator. She also intends to join the softball team and can't wait to play on the College's new turf fields.

By giving to Where It's Needed, you are supporting student needs and projects to help keep FLCC's academic facilities on the cutting edge.

Tell us your news!

If you've recently started a new job, had a promotion or other professional success, we want to know! We'd also love to hear about awards, engagements, marriages and of course, babies!

To submit your Class Note or to let us know about an address change, send an email to alumni@flcc.edu or call (585) 785-1454. You can also mail submissions to the attention of Lisa Scott, FLCC, 3325 Marvin Sands Drive, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

from the
cover



A DREAM REALIZED

After she graduated from Newark High School in 1996, Nelly DeVelder entered the workforce and started a family. College seemed out of reach.

“My parents were low-income, and I thought college was going to be very expensive,” she said.

What they lacked in means, Nelly’s family made up for in determination: They had legally immigrated to the U.S. from Honduras, starting with her father, Luis Acosta, in 1981. Nelly and her mother, Laura, joined him four years later, when she was 8. “I knew a lick of English – just the basics,” she said. “I was actually supposed to be in third-grade, but was held back because of the language barrier.”

Nelly quickly became fluent in English, and later in life, her ability to speak two languages became a professional asset: She now serves as the bilingual coordinator and advocate for the Victim Resource Center of Wayne County. She helps Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and provides translation for important legal documents such as orders of protection.



Nelly's son Dominic told her he wanted to see her cross the stage.



MORE PHOTOS

Commencement and Nursing Pinning Ceremony photos are posted and available on the FLCC Flickr site, www.flickr.com/photos/fingerlakescommunitycollege.

In spite of her professional accomplishments, Nelly had felt like something was missing all those years since high school: A college degree.

No more.

On May 18, Nelly donned a cap and gown and crossed the stage at Constellation Brands-Marvin Sands Performing Arts Center to receive her associate degree.

The commencement address was given by Ginny Clark, executive director of the Sands Family Foundation, who recently retired as senior vice president for public affairs for Constellation Brands. A community college graduate, she talked about some of the many hats she has worn in her more than 20-year career with the Fortune 500 global company. “Regardless of the role, my success was



So as you go out into the unknown, leverage your current relationships and keep building new ones. Your parents, your families, your friends, your FLCC professors, your community — we are here for you to help you navigate your path.

— Ginny Clark, commencement speaker

Ginny recently retired from her position as senior vice president for public affairs at Constellation Brands and now serves as executive director of the Sands Family Foundation.

23 YEARS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

always built on relationships and three simple rules that were non-negotiables with anyone that worked on my team,” she said. “They are: trust, respect and communications— for, without these in place, meaningful relationships cannot be maintained.”

FLCC President Robert K. Nye; Linda Ross, retired professor of psychology; and Abigail Fargo, president of the Student Corporation, also gave remarks. Lori Vail, assistant professor of English, gave the invocation and benediction.

Nelly’s proud family – including parents Luis and Laura – were in the audience of thousands. At 41, she is the first among them to earn a college degree. “My dream was always to go back to school,” she said, adding that most of her colleagues at the Victim Resource Center in Newark have a bachelor’s degree. “I always felt like I was the only one lacking.”

Nelly had taken several classes at FLCC and Monroe Community College over the years, but mostly focused on a former goal of become a certified dental assistant. With many of those credits applied toward her requirements for a major in human services, Nelly enrolled part-time in the fall of 2017.

Much of her inspiration came from her son, Dominic. In the spring of 2017 he completed a six-month advanced manufacturing machinist job-training program through FLCC, determined to land a career that offered more than his dishwashing job. “He was a big motivator for me to go back to school, so I did it,” she said.

In addition to juggling work and college these past two years, Nelly has stayed busy keeping up with her family; in addition to Dominic, 21, she has a daughter, Grace, 13, and a stepdaughter, Jillian, 13, with her significant-other, Cory Edinger. The family recently relocated from their home in Newark to nearby Marion.

She was considering skipping commencement, as she has already started working toward a bachelor’s degree in social work at Keuka College. But Dominic insisted otherwise.

“He said, ‘You worked really hard, and I really want to see you walk,’” she said. “That’s all I needed to hear.”

COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS



Recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence, from left: Lenore Friend, graduate Blinne Krieger, Margaret "Meg" Gillio, Jo-Hannah Reynolds, Izy Grooms, Jennie Erdle, Heman Sweet, and Charlene Fairman '89. Graduate Jillian Bond is not shown.



THE HONOR GUARD

If you took part in commencement between 2000 and the present, you experienced what has become a beloved FLCC tradition: the Honor Guard.

At the end of each ceremony, members of the stage party, including the president and commencement speaker, lead the faculty out of the CMAC amphitheater. Just outside, the stage party and faculty line up on either side of a paved walkway, forming a tunnel of applause – and even some hugs – through which the graduates pass.



THE PROCESSIONAL MACEBEARER

Recently retired psychology Prof. Linda Ross was chosen by her faculty colleagues to serve as this year's macebearer. It is tradition that the macebearer lead the processional of graduates, faculty and members of the platform party from the FLCC Student Center to CMAC, where the ceremony is held.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS 2019

Seven employees and two students were recognized during commencement on May 18 as recipients of SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. Recipients were as follows:

Margaret "Meg" Gillio of Pittsford, honored for excellence in faculty service

Izy Grooms of Victor, honored for excellence in teaching

Jennie Erdle of Shortsville, honored for excellence in professional service

Lenore Friend of South Bristol, honored for excellence in professional service

Charlene Fairman '89 of Stanley, honored for excellence in classified service

Jo-Hannah Reynolds of Dresden, honored for excellence in adjunct teaching

Heman Sweet of Clifton Springs, honored for excellence in adjunct teaching

FLCC's recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence were **Jillian Bond** of Aurora and **Blinne Krieger** of Fairport. Jillian earned an A.A. in liberal arts and sciences and an A.S. in fine arts. Blinne earned an A.A. in liberal arts and sciences.

A CEREMONY OF THEIR OWN

Another Commencement tradition is the Nursing Pinning Ceremony, held the morning of graduation. The ceremony includes not only the graduates of the rigorous program, but also the advancing freshman.



2019 EMERITI

The FLCC Board of Trustees approved emeritus distinction for eight retirees, who were invited to be part of the commencement stage party. Emeritus is a Latin word meaning "to serve out one's term," but it signifies so much more than longtime service. Shown in the photo, from left to right, are Dennis "Putt" Moore, professor emeritus of physical education and integrated health care; Bruce Gilman, professor emeritus of environmental conservation and horticulture; Louise Mulvaney, professor

emeritus of humanities; Corinne Canough, director emeritus of educational planning and career services; Michael Prockton, professor emeritus of accounting; Barbara Murphy, professor emeritus of humanities; and President Robert Nye. Not shown are honorees Sandy Brown, professor emeritus of computing sciences; and Nancy Clarkson, professor emeritus of nursing.

campus happenings



Speakers at the athletic field dedication were, from left, President Robert Nye, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb '78, Alumni Association President Kelly La Voie '96, Campus Activities Board Chair Roesais Mendiola, student athlete Melanie Gleason, Athletic Director Bob Lowden, Vice President of Enrollment Management Carol Urbaitis; Board of Trustees Chair Geoff Astles and Jack Marren, chair of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors and Victor town supervisor.

Game on!

FLCC's \$5.95 million turf athletic fields saw plenty of use by springtime, but fanfare celebrating their completion had to wait on the weather.

Student athletes, coaches and community members joined College employees for a ceremony on April 26. The project includes a multipurpose field for lacrosse, soccer and baseball and a separate softball field. Funding included \$250,000 in private donations initiated by an anonymous supporter's pledge to match all gifts, up to a total of \$125,000.

The new fields allow for expanded seasons and an expanded athletics roster: The College has approved the addition of a women's lacrosse team, starting in the spring of 2020. Lighting will enable FLCC to host high school and college tournaments that run past sunset for the first time. Such events will provide a return on investment for the community by bringing in visitors and offering more opportunity for the local sports community.

The fields are also a draw for prospective student athletes, many of whom come from high schools that already have turf fields.



Members of the Lakers baseball and softball teams, shown with FLCC mascot Flick, provided tours of the new athletic fields.



Well-played, Bob

Longtime athletic director Bob Lowden retires after 31 years

The annual spring athletic awards banquet celebrates the accomplishments of players and teams.

This year's banquet was no exception: Coaches took turns at the podium in the Student Center café, offering praise mixed with individual and team stats. Then, one after another, the coaches also expressed gratitude to the man who has steered the FLCC athletics program for the past 13 years: Robert Lowden.

The event, held in May, came on the eve of the announcement that Bob would retire, wrapping up a 31-year career at FLCC. His last day on the job was Aug. 1.

Those who attended the banquet got to see a tribute video – filmed over several weeks and kept under wraps as a surprise – featuring dozens of past and current colleagues and student athletes. They alternately thanked Bob for his dedication and collegial approach and roasted him, mostly for his corny jokes.

He first joined CCFL in 1988 as a technical specialist for athletics and physical education. He taught courses, coordinated the recreation program and oversaw the gym and fitness center. A year in, he took the job of coaching the men's baseball team. In 1992, his team secured the College's first national ranking. The team again claimed the championship in 1994.

In 2006, Bob succeeded Dennis "Putt" Moore as athletic director. During his tenure, the program has expanded to include 16 teams. He helped see to the recent addition of the eSports Overwatch team and a women's lacrosse team, both scheduled to begin in the coming academic year. He also increased the focus on character development with the Winning with Character program and the Student Athlete Advisory Board.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment, though, is the new \$5.95 million turf athletic fields that opened in the spring of 2019.

Bob's successor is Samantha Boccacino, who has served as assistant director of athletics since 2015.

From FLCC to the major leagues

A member of the Lakers baseball team has been drafted to play for the major league. Tanner Cooper was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 35th round, No. 1,044 overall.

"My whole family was around the computer if it would happen," he said. "When my name up, I got chills and everyone around me started

During his season with the Lakers, he had a .411 batting average, a .521 on base percentage, and a .714 slugging percentage. He had 79 hits, 16 doubles, nine triples, 71 RBI (runs batted in), and scored 57 runs. He was also dominant on the mound: In his 12 appearances, he won eight games and lost four. Out of the 72.1 innings pitched, he allowed 45 hits

and only 17 runs, 13 of them being earned runs. He had a 1.62 earned-run average, and a record-breaking 136 strikeouts.

"Tanner is a phenomenal baseball talent," said Lakers head coach Sean Marren. "Whether it was hitting, pitching or defense, he excelled in all areas."

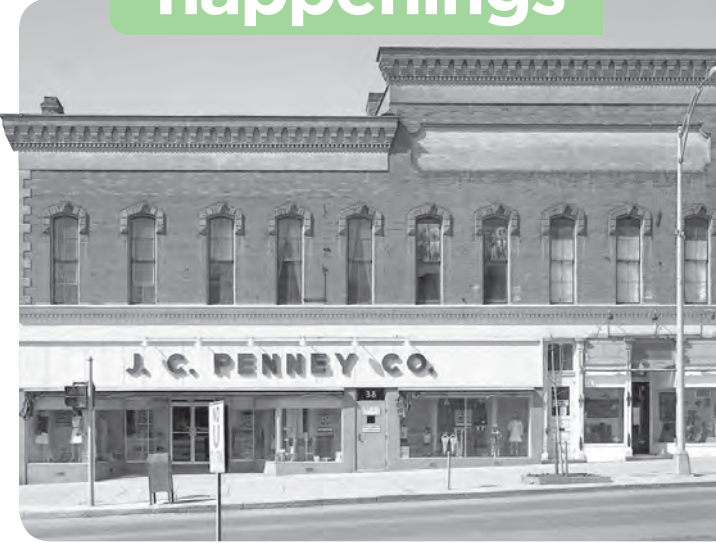
Tanner was not only a stat leader for the Lakers, but he led the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III as well. He was fifth in the nation in RBI and ERA (earned run average). He also led the nation in strikeouts. He had 22 more than the pitcher with the second-most strikeouts.

Before the draft, Tanner was selected as both the Mid-State Athletic Conference and NJCAA Region III Player of the Year.

"Being a Laker is something that I will cherish forever," he said. "I have made friends that I will have for a lifetime and learned so much from coach Marren and the rest of the staff."



campus happenings



When the College's first full-time credit-bearing classes began in February 1968, art students met with faculty at 34 S. Main St., adjacent to the J.C. Penney store in downtown Canandaigua. The new ArtSpace36 gallery opened in May 2019 in 36 S. Main St., in space that was once part of J.C. Penney.

Back where it all began

ArtSpace36, the new FLCC art gallery in downtown Canandaigua, has brought the College's arts program full circle.

The gallery opened in May at 36 S. Main St., one door down from the site of the original gallery and art classroom during the College's storefront days, before the main campus opened in 1975.

The latest exhibit at the new gallery pays homage to those early days. Called "Honoring Our Roots," it features work by FLCC's first art instructors, Wayne Williams and Tom Insalaco, and runs through Oct. 12.

ArtSpace36 is a pilot project, launched with funds the Board of Trustees set aside to support FLCC's most recent strategic plan (View it online at flcc.edu/forward).

The objectives of the plan include meeting the needs of underserved populations and improving engagement and interactions between FLCC and the community. A team of faculty led by Lacey McKinney, assistant professor in the Visual and Performing Arts Department, submitted a proposal



in December 2018 and earned the approval of a governance committee overseeing the internal grants process. On May 2, the doors opened with an exhibit of posters from past Spring Arts Festivals.

A new page on the FLCC website at flcc.edu/artspace36 lists all the events and information on how local artists can submit work for the makers' market in the gallery. Contact the organizers via email at artspace36@flcc.edu.



Samantha Blair '19 poses with an example of her work in the ArtSpace36 exhibit called "Illustration." It also featured work by alumni Pamela Araya '14 and John Hume Jr. '77 and adjunct faculty members Margaret Pence and Elaine VerStraete.

Pictured above, center: Visitors view the illustrations of FLCC alumni and adjunct faculty members at a July 11 reception at ArtSpace36.

campus happenings



The annual Spring Arts Festival, organized by the College's Visual and Performing Arts Department, not only showcases student talent, but faculty and staff as well.

A dedicated team got to work early in the semester on set design, lighting, special effects and – new this year, multimedia enhancements.

"We're always proud of what we put together for our Springs Arts Festivals," said Eleanor Rideout, music coordinator and producer of the event, "but this year's was unlike any that we've undertaken."

Titled "The Show Must Go On: A Tribute to Queen," the event featured four student singers in the role of the late iconic singer Freddie Mercury, a video narrated by FLCC's own Jim Perri chronicling the band's rise to glory, costumes, effects lighting and even a smoke machine.

Spring Arts Festivals are always a big draw, but this one followed the 2018 award-winning film "Bohemian Rhapsody," which tells the story of lead singer Mercury from just before he joined the band in 1970 to its 1985 Live Aid performance at the original Wembley Stadium in London.

A fan since high school, Jim saw Queen twice, once in New York City before Mercury died from complications of AIDS in 1991. "Queen wasn't like the other bands in the 80s. They were odd and eccentric and a lot of us could identify with them because we were outcasts, too," he said. "They could push the envelope – they were irreverent."



Lisa Carlyon '19 poses with her award-winning bronze sculpture during the Student Honors Art Exhibition, part of the Spring Arts Festival.

THE STUDENT MUSICIANS

Student musicians included vocalists Zach Fadale of Forestville, Briana Horton of Geneva, John Larson of Churchville, El Testa of Romulus, Sarah Eging of Leroy, John Martin of Webster, Leah DeGraw of Union Springs, and Rachael Eckerson of Fairport. Instrumentalists included Alex Klick of Phelps, James Gardella of Rochester, Jacob Wren of Rochester, Andrew Shelton of Rochester, Jonah Hettel of Rochester, Henry O'Brien of Canandaigua, Liam Welch of Canandaigua, Nate Ellsworth of Dalton, Lane Priest of Stanley and Zach Fadale.

Music faculty members David McGuire, Geoff Smith and Maria Gillard worked closely with students as musical and vocal directors, while FLCC staff Robert Potter '85 and Kari Ripley '08 offered their technical expertise. Jeff Kidd '05, FLCC video engineer, contributed to the project, along with Roz Maassen, technical specialist.

Under the instruction of Beth Johnson, chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department, several theatre students assisted with the set design and lighting.

Additionally, the festival poster was designed by student artists Sarah Wilder and Mikayla Johnson with guidance from art faculty Lacey McKinney and Liz Brownell.

"Working with the students has been great. Finding a large-scale extracurricular creative project lets us work together in a more collegial way and deepens what our time together has meant," David said.

campus happenings

Chorale concerts honor the late Dr. A. John Walker

While directing the Finger Lakes Chorale, Dr. A. John Walker was known to walk among the singers, causing anxiety among the ranks. In turn, they sometimes kept wagers over how long it would take him during rehearsals to remove his outer shirt, revealing a unique T-shirt underneath.

The alto section struggled to keep from laughing while checking their watches, former members said.

Those and other memories were shared during two spring concerts held in Walker's memory at the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield.

Dr. Walker, who was a professor emeritus, died in August 2018 at age 80. A 1956 graduate of Marion High School, he went on to graduate from the Eastman School of Music. He taught music in Spencerport, and then at Washington College in Maryland before accepting the position at the



then-Community College of the Finger Lakes in 1973, two years before the main campus was built.

Dr. Walker was instrumental in developing the College's music program and, he led the Lincoln Hill Singers and directed the Finger Lakes Chorale for 30 years.

"Former students and community members remember John as a gifted teacher and conductor

who set high standards, yet was able to make the most difficult musical concepts accessible," said Suzanne Washburn '82. "He was known for the rigor of his music theory classes and for his attention to detail and musicality in preparing a performance."

The Finger Lakes Chorale is a community chorus based at FLCC that performs concerts in December, late spring and August. It is directed by Dennis Maxfield, who was recruited by friends to sing with the group in the late 1990s. "John used me for solos and I just stayed with it," said Maxfield, who took over as director for Dr. Walker in 2003.

LIKE TO SING? The Finger Lakes Chorale, a community chorus based at FLCC, welcomes new members. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in rehearsal hall 3375 on the third floor of the main campus at 3325 Marvin Sands Drive, Canandaigua. Prior choral experience is helpful but not required. The Chorale rehearses year-round and gives concerts in spring, summer and a few weeks before Christmas. The Finger Lakes Chorale collects funds at its concerts for scholarships for FLCC students in music and music recording programs. For more information about the Chorale, contact director Dennis Maxfield at (585) 396-0027.

Following Walker's retirement in 2002, the Lincoln Hill Singers transitioned to the Camerata and Maxfield took the helm.

"If it wasn't for Dennis, Lincoln Hill singers was going to fade away and there would not be a Finger Lakes Camerata," said Alan Braun, one of the group's longtime singers.

Braun said Maxfield has earned the respect of his singers for his style of compassionate leadership. "He teaches as he goes along, but in a way that makes it very enjoyable," he added. "The people who sing for him would follow him to the ends of the Earth."

Maxfield saw the singers' support leading up to and following his diagnosis in 2014 with Parkinson's disease. He continued to direct, pausing only to undergo brain stimulation surgery, which helped temper the tremors that threatened his ability to conduct.

He said his partial retirement is "bittersweet," though he looks forward to the extra time with family, including wife, Jennifer, grown children Justin and Kristen and three grandkids.



A baton passed

Dennis Maxfield will continue conducting the Finger Lakes Chorale but has stepped down from his longtime role with another musical group, the Finger Lakes Camerata.

Maxfield led the Camerata for over 15 years. He retired after its performances in May but plans to stay with the group as a singer.

Longtime Camerata accompanist Anthony D'Agostino has taken over as director. He currently serves as the junior high choir director for the Victor Central School District.

Maxfield received his bachelor's and master's degrees and performance certificates in voice and opera from the Eastman School of Music. He joined the Finger Lakes Chorale and Camerata - formerly called the Lincoln Hill Singers - in the late 1990s, shortly after relocating to Canandaigua. The two groups' longtime director, A. John Walker, often gave solo pieces to Maxfield.

campus happenings



New media coordinator and Assistant Professor Paul Engin is shown on the left with Project Rock students, from left, Jon Sutherland, Kelsey Grimes, Taylor Ward, Colton Cayward and Zachary Spencer.

Rocking the 2nd floor

A small crowd of students, faculty and staff gathered around a large TV screen affixed to the wall in the second-floor hallway at the main campus late one morning at the end of the spring semester.

In front of the screen, four players pressed large colored buttons as matching symbols descended on the TV screen in front of them. Those who pressed the button in sync with the fastest-moving symbols earned the honor of entering a name on the leaderboard.

Paul Engin, assistant professor of new media, quickly lost his top spot to a faculty colleague and students who dubbed themselves "Rock Starz."

Called Project Rock because it's set to music, the video game was a capstone, or final project, for New Media student Taylor Ward and project co-leader Jon Sutherland. Taylor and Jon had much input and support from their classmates, including Kelsey Grimes, Colton Cayward and Zac Spencer.

They also received much support from outside their classroom. Students in the music recording program, for instance, created the music for the game. Taylor

said she was inspired by a recording class she took with Kari Ripley '08, instructional specialist.

"I like music a lot - I play guitar - and Kari helped with getting music recording students involved with the project," said Taylor. "Being collaborative is what New Media is all about."

The FLCC Student Corporation provided funding to cover the cost of some of the materials needed, like the wood for the button panel. The wall space was offered up by Beth Johnson, professor of theatre and chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department. Jim Perri, technical director, offered advice for the project build. And, facilities staffers completed the installation: Carpenter Steve Varney '77 built the wooden button panel, and electrician Beth Fitch completed the wiring.

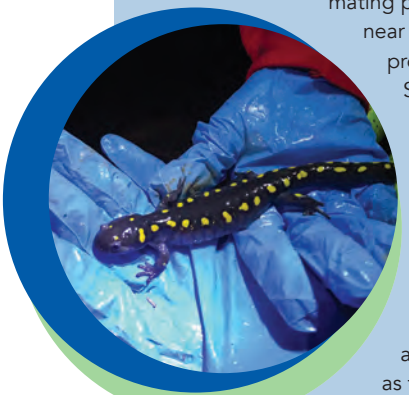
Paul said he was "very excited to see the amount of collaboration between departments."

Taylor and Jon graduated in May, but Project Rock will continue as a fixture in the corridor, available for all to use.

AMPHIBIANS GET A LIFE-SAVING LIFT

Volunteers led by FLCC faculty ensured safe passage to 3,872 amphibians across a stretch of County Road 36 in Canadice near the college's Muller Field Station.

Over the course of several evenings last spring, the helpers carried salamanders and frogs across the roughly mile-long stretch of road to spare them certain death from passing vehicles. The amphibians need to cross the road in their migratory path from their winter hillside homes to the vernal mating pools on and near the Muller property.



Salamanders can live for more than 30 years and are an asset to ecosystems by controlling insect populations and serving as the diet for several bird and mammal species, said

John Bateman, instructor of conservation, who led the effort this year with Bruce Gilman, retired professor and director of the field station. "Amphibians also act as a 'canary in a coal mine' as they are sensitive to changes in land use, pollution and climate change," he added.

The volunteers included conservation students and alumni, faculty, staff and community members. They moved a total of 3,032 spotted salamanders, 278 Jefferson salamanders, 46 eastern red-spotted newts, 480 spring peepers, 16 American toads, four leopard frogs, 11 pickerel frogs, one green frog, two bullfrogs and 11 unknown species of frog (volunteers simply tallied them as "frog"). A few hundred casualties were counted in the road.

Healthcare training program a ‘life changer’

Shortly after starting an 11-month healthcare training program, Kristal White got some news that could have easily sidetracked her schooling plans: She was pregnant.

The baby was due before the rigorous program would be over. Missing more than a few days would threaten her ability to complete it and achieve her dream of rising from the rank of entry-level certified nurse assistant to become a licensed practical nurse.

Kristal, of Rochester, refused to give up the coveted slot. In the months that followed, she juggled pregnancy with the demands of the intensive program and the needs of her family – she already had two kids at home. When the time came for the baby’s arrival, Kristal told classmates, “I’ll be right back.”

She kept her word. She gave birth to a baby girl, Kynnedi, on a Friday and was back in the classroom the following Monday.

With Kynnedi in her arms, Kristal crossed the stage during a June graduation ceremony at FLCC. She wiped away tears as her instructor placed symbolic nursing pins on her white uniform, and on the baby’s matching white dress.

Kristal was among 20 graduates of the CNA to LPN Program facilitated by FLCC in partnership with the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center at SUNY Brockport,



Kristal White of Rochester holds her daughter while receiving a symbolic nursing pin during a graduation ceremony for the CNA to LPN Program. The baby was born on a Friday during the rigorous program, and Kristal returned to class the following Monday.

the Rochester Regional Health System, RochesterWorks!, and Finger Lakes Works. The program allows participants to take classes to become licensed practical nurses while maintaining an income to support themselves and their families. All began as certified nurse assistants (CNAs) and took classes for 20 hours a week over the last year while working for 20 hours.

Todd Sloane, FLCC’s director of workforce development, explained that the CNA to LPN class is different from other training programs because the students go to school part-time and work part-time while receiving a stipend to cover what would otherwise be lost wages. Tuition and income support were provided by Rochester Regional Health, RochesterWorks!, Finger Lakes Works, and a federal grant.

“Many certified nurse assistants are unable to make the jump to LPN because of the extra time required for schooling, the cost of tuition and family obligations,” he said. “These are excellent employees who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to advance in their profession. This program is transforming lives.”

“In this past year I have been witness to the strength of 19 incredible nurses,” said Alyssa Morales of Spencerport, one of a few graduates who gave remarks at the ceremony. “During this program there has been loss, there has been birth, there have been struggles to balance children, social connections, work and self-care. For this year I have been in the trenches with adults who decided it was their time to revisit education and rise up into worthiness.”



Graduates of the certified nurse assistant-to-licensed practical nurse program facilitated by FLCC are as follows: Bottom row from left, Brittany Bain Johnson, Katelyn Greco, Mutt Douangdala, Courtney Conner; second row, from left, Shamika M. Dillon, Shannon M. Maricle, Nakeisha Jackson, Cherylne Augustin, Alyssa Morales; third row, from left, Lakisha J. Lawhorn, Amanda Loreco, Keba K. Webb, Johanna Lee Campbell, Joy N. Bronson; top row, from left, Kristal White, Carly M. Zeno, Tamika M. Thomas, Peraleen McMurty. Not shown: Leticia M. Gonzalez and Jesus Nogueras.



At the close of the ceremony, program instructors led the graduates in taking the “Nightingale Pledge,” a statement of the ethics and principles of the nursing profession named in honor of Florence Nightingale.

Classmate Katelyn Greco of Newark was looking forward to advancing in her position at Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic. She was inspired to go into healthcare while caring for her ailing grandmother, who passed away in 2013.

She became a CNA but didn’t consider reaching higher, intimidated by the cost and additional training needed. The program has been a “huge relief,” she said.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, the median wage for a certified nurse assistant is \$28,980 while the median wage for a licensed practical nurse is \$41,430.

The students were chosen from roughly 90 program applicants, all employees of Rochester Regional Health. Having completed the training program, they must now take a national exam for licensed practical nurse certification.

“This has been such a life changer,” Kristal said. “This program supported us 100 percent.”



From left, Alyssa Morales, Cherylne Augustin and Tamika M. Thomas share a laugh during the ceremony.

alumni spotlight

Lester Mayers '17



After earning his degree at FLCC, Lester Mayers '17 transferred to SUNY New Paltz. He earned his bachelor's degree in May 2019 and has since started graduate studies.

Below, accompanied by a band, Lester Mayers '17 performed excerpts from his poetry book "100 Poems for 100 Voices" at the Denizen Theatre in New Paltz this past spring. His book is available for purchase on Amazon.



Grad returns with bachelor's, book, and big plans

When Lester Mayers started as a student at FLCC in January 2015, he arrived on campus from Brooklyn on a Greyhound bus with all his possessions stuffed in two plastic bags.

Four years later, he returned, fresh off a flight from Colorado, to give a talk about and sign copies of his recently published book, "100 Poems for 100 Voices." It is a collection of poetry told from his life experiences: Orphaned when his mother died from complications of AIDS, Lester was homeless for a time and rejected by his father.

Lester's talk was the first in a new initiative by the college bookstore, The Book Nook. Called the Spectrum Series, it showcases local or FLCC-affiliated talent.

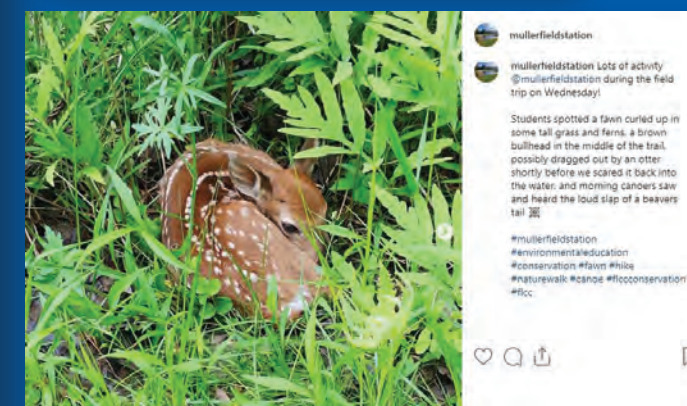
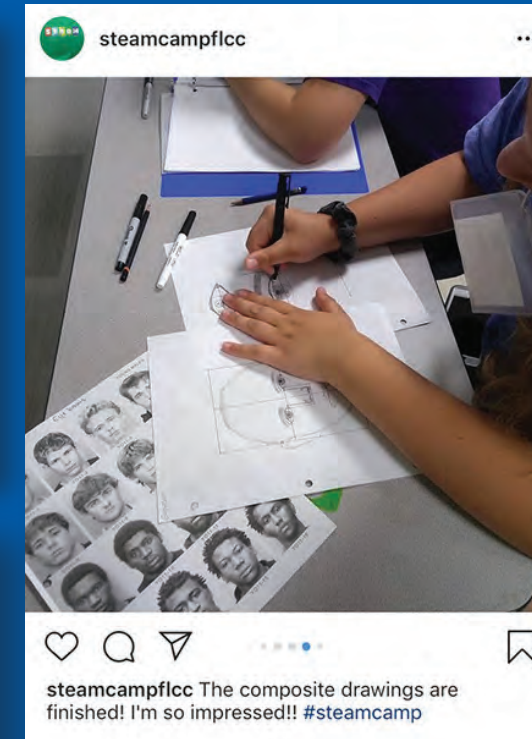
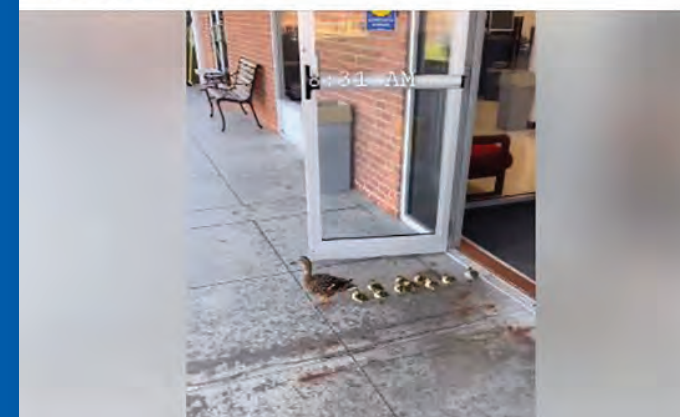
"The Spectrum Series celebrates the myriad authors, artists, etc. right here, and all this

homegrown talent should be celebrated," said Laura Johnson, director of The Book Nook. "It also is a great way to highlight the diversity of the campus community as well. And who better to kick off a project like this than our very own Lester!"

At FLCC, Lester excelled academically and became a leader on campus. He advocated for inclusion and diversity awareness and helped form the student organization AALANA, an acronym for African American, Latino and Native American. His efforts earned him a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

This past May, Lester graduated with honors from SUNY New Paltz, where he also left his mark, performing leading roles in theatrical

productions and continuing his advocacy for diversity and inclusion. He recently relocated to Colorado, having earned a spot in the master of fine arts program in creative writing and poetics at Naropa University in Boulder. He has adapted poems from his book to a concert, which he has performed at various venues, including the Nuyorican Poets Café in New York City.



connect
with us!



on facebook:
fingerlakescommunitycollege



on instagram:
@ficc_connects



on twitter:
@ficc_connects

Planned Giving: The Storefront Pioneers Society

Planned gifts are gift arrangements that have specific tax advantages and often include lifetime income to a beneficiary or beneficiaries named by the donor. A planned gift maximizes your giving potential and can even allow you to ensure your future financial security or that of a loved one.

The Storefront Pioneers Society recognizes alumni, faculty, and friends who have designated Finger Lakes Community College as the beneficiary

of a bequest, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy, or who have made other estate provisions benefiting the College through the Foundation.

If you would like to join with them in helping to ensure the future of FLCC, contact Brie Chupalio, director of development, at (585)785-1541 or by email at foundation@ficc.edu.

[SEEN ON SOCIAL]

honoring alumni and friends
of the College

RECOGNITION, WELL-EARNED

Our alumni and benefactors are incredible. Each year, the FLCC Alumni Association has the difficult task of selecting a few to recognize during a special event at the College's main campus on the evening before commencement. It is a night of inspiration, as recipients take the stage and share the stories of how FLCC — or, as it was previously known,

Community College of the Finger Lakes — provided footing on their personal and professional journeys. The pages that follow feature the 2019 honorees. If you know of an alumnus or alumna who is deserving of recognition, let us know: Email information to Lisa Scott at Lisa.Scott@flcc.edu.



Preston E. Pierce '79 Distinguished Alumni Award

Preston E. Pierce '79 taught U.S. history at Victor Central School for 30 years and has served as Ontario County historian since 1983. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member at FLCC, the regional archivist at the Rochester Regional Library Council and museum educator at the Ontario County Historical Society. He has written and presented widely on topics ranging from the Underground Railroad to military history. For his expertise and volunteerism, he has received the Julia Reinstein Career Achievement Award from the Government Appointed Historians of Western New York, the Daughters of the American Revolution's National Medal of Honor, and Rotary's Paul Harris Award, among others. An Army veteran, Preston has served as a research and analysis officer at the U.S. Army Center of Military History and as an admissions liaison officer at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He serves as a member of the Canandaigua American Legion's Trail of Remembrance Committee and has been honored for his support of scouting. He also works with county agencies to develop an interactive map that displays World War I veterans' burial plots.



Ashley M. Pridmore '05 with her family at the alumni awards event.

Ashley M. Pridmore '05 Outstanding Art Alumni Achievement Award

Ashley M. Pridmore '05, a Naples native, is a mixed-media artist who explores the natural world and the cycle of life. After FLCC, she earned a bachelor of fine arts in sculpture and extended media from Virginia Commonwealth University. She was featured in Garden & Gun magazine for her accomplishments, including the installation of her 8-foot tall bronze "Saint Kampos" sculpture in New Orleans. Solo exhibitions include "Into the Thicket" at the Soren Christensen Gallery in New Orleans, "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral" at the Redbud Gallery in Houston and "By Land or By Sea" in a 15th century deconsecrated Franciscan cathedral in Germany.



Matthew T. Lochner '99 with fellow alumnus and current FLCC Conservation Department chair, John Foust '97

Matthew T. Lochner '99 Outstanding Conservation Alumni Achievement Award

After graduating from FLCC, Matthew T. Lochner '99 earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from SUNY Brockport. He worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a fisheries technician and as a research assistant at Brockport. He currently works as a lieutenant with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and serves as the Yates County coordinator for hunter education. He co-founded several youth hunts and conservation events, including the Annual Robert DeRoo Memorial Conservation Dinner and Youth Hunt and the Annual Yates County Youth Turkey Hunt.



Marcia J. Booth '14 is shown with Berna Ticonchuk '79, environmental conservation and horticulture technical specialist, at the alumni awards event

Marcia J. Booth '14 Outstanding Horticulture Alumni Achievement Award

Marcia J. Booth '14 enrolled at FLCC after working for 30 years in a family machine shop with her father, two brothers, and a sister. While she enjoyed working with family, she found greater satisfaction in gardens and greenhouses, a field she had explored while working at a local farm as a teenager. Shortly after enrolling in the FLCC horticulture program in September 2012, she was diagnosed with a serious illness. With the help of her two daughters, Casey and Myah; her partner, Richard; and her FLCC instructors, she completed the program and earned her nursery and landscape professional certification. She now runs Down to Earth Landscape Design and Maintenance in Jamestown.



Sarah R. Russell '99 with FLCC nursing faculty Susan McCarthy, left, and Mary Coriale, right



Joseph E. Brown '07 Outstanding Humanities Alumni Achievement Award

A graduate of Marcus Whitman, Joseph E. Brown '07 served in the Army as a combat engineer from 1996 to 2000 and was employed by the College's Facilities and Grounds Department before becoming a student. After earning his associate degree in liberal arts with a concentration in humanities, he earned a bachelor's degree in education from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Currently, he works as the assistant bursar at the University of Rochester. He also provides information to student veterans pertaining to the various education, training, housing, and health care programs available.

Sarah R. Russell '99 Outstanding Nursing Alumni Achievement Award

After earning her associate degree, Sarah R. Russell '99 practiced as a registered nurse at Thompson Hospital for 16 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Keuka College in 2011 and completed a dual family nurse practitioner/doctor of nursing practice degree from St. John Fisher College in 2015. She was a Federal Traineeship Doctoral Scholarship recipient and earned the Doctor of Nursing Practice Academic Excellence Award. Additionally, she completed graduate clinical fellowships in pediatric autism spectrum disorders, and leadership education in neurodevelopmental and related disabilities at Strong Memorial Hospital. She is currently a family nurse practitioner at the Canandaigua Medical Group.

Trevor M. Bradshaw '18 Alumni Association Exceptional Service Award

The Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award is given annually in recognition of an athlete from the previous year who achieved the highest grade point average while participating on an intercollegiate athletic team. While at Oswego High School, Trevor M. Bradshaw '18 was a standout athlete on the school's volleyball, baseball and basketball teams. At FLCC, he was a member of the baseball team for two years and earned an A.S. in sports studies. In 85 career games for the Lakers, he hit .325 with a .441 on-base percentage. He had 79 hits (19 doubles, 4 triples, one home run), 41 RBIs, and 20 stolen bases. During his sophomore season, he was named to the Middle States Athletic Conference All-Conference team. Currently, he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in finance at SUNY Fredonia, where he is a member of the baseball team.

Bruce A. Gilman Alumni Association Exceptional Service Award

In a career that spanned four decades, Bruce A. Gilman taught courses in aquatic ecology, field botany, glacial geology, and environmental science. He was awarded emeritus status following his 2018 retirement, and continues to serve as director of the College's Muller Field Station at the south end of Honeoye Lake. He played a key role in the development of the main campus' arboretum and trail system and, during construction of the Student Center, he worked with county planners and engineers to use the wetlands on campus as a natural stormwater retention and filtration system. He has studied factors that affect the water quality of Canandaigua Lake for decades, including invasive species and blue-green algae. His wealth of botanical knowledge is regularly shared through walks and lectures sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, The Finger Lakes Land Trust, the Canandaigua Botanical Society, Ontario Pathways, the Rochester Academy of Science and the College. Additionally, he curates the Finger Lakes Herbarium, a collection of more than 12,000 sheets containing plants representative of western New York, and is author of the book "Ontario County Flora."



Debi Jones '91, chair of the FLCC Foundation Board of Directors, is shown with Karen S. Davison Blazey, trustee emeritus, and Gregory Taylor '16 of Bully Hill Vineyards.

Benefactor Award

Bully Hill Vineyards and its founding family, the Taylors, were recognized for their ongoing support of the College's viticulture program with the 2019 Benefactor Award. Lillian Taylor, president of the company and widow of its late founder, Walter Taylor, made a generous contribution toward construction of the Viticulture and Wine Center and helped fund an endowment to support the program. The facility's teaching winery is named in honor of Walter, and the adjacent enology laboratory is the Gregg Learned, Winemaker, Bully Hill Vineyards Lab. Among the first students at the facility following its opening in the spring of 2015 was Gregory Taylor, son of Walter and Lillian. He earned his associate degree in 2016 and works alongside his brother, Stephen, and their mother.

FLCC Foundation Award

This year's Foundation Award recognized Trustee Emeritus Karen S. Davison Blazey, who served from 1996 to 2016. During her tenure, Karen's leadership roles included secretary of the board from 1998-1999, vice chair from 1999-2002, and chair from 2002-2004. The New York Community College Trustees in 2015 presented her with the Donald M. Mawhinney Trustee Leadership Award for her role in the development of FLCC's strategic plans and in building a strong link between planning and budgeting. As chair of the education and planning committee, she oversaw development of innovative programs, including viticulture and wine technology, instrumentation and control technologies and new media. She also served on the Foundation Board of Directors from 1996 to 2001 and helped establish the Board of Trustees scholarship. Her support of the Foundation continues with her participation in fundraisers such as Book Feast, the annual golf tournament, and Vintners & Valentines.

honoring alumni and friends of the College

Athletic Hall of Fame roster grows by three



Eric Marsh '98, former head coach of the women's soccer team, is shown with former player Cayli G. Carmona '13.

Cayli G. Carmona '13

A Greece-Olympia graduate, Cayli G. Carmona '13 led the Lakers soccer program to 40 wins in the 2011 and 2012 seasons. She recorded 22 goals and 28 assists to lead the 2011 team to a Region III championship and national tournament bid. She was second in the nation in scoring and named to the first team All Mid-State Athletic Conference. She was also named first team All-Region and first team NJCAA All-American. In 2012, she broke the all-time scoring record with 37 goals and 35 assists for a total of 181 career points. She was selected conference player of the year, NJCAA Region III Player of the Year, and garnered two first team All-America awards through the NJCAA and NSCAA. After earning her associate degree, she continued her education at SUNY Brockport where she was captain of the women's soccer team, named Offensive Player of the Year, and earned a first team All-SUNYAC selection. She went on to earn a master's degree and is now a third-grade teacher at Holy Cross School in Rochester.

Jessica L. Marianacci Valone '08

Jessica L. Marianacci Valone '08 came to FLCC from Bloomfield High School as a highly decorated track and field athlete. In 2007, FLCC's inaugural year of track and field, she was the NJCAA Division III Region III high jump champion and the NJCAA Division III national high jump champion. She also finished fourth in the triple jump at the 2007 NJCAA National Track and Field Championships. In 2008, Jessie repeated as both regional and national champion in the high jump. In addition, she advanced to the finals in the 100-meter hurdles and competed in both the 1600-meter and 3200-meter relays at the 2008 NJCAA National Track and Field Championships. Jessie is a two-time All-American and two-time National Champion. She earned a bachelor's in fine arts with a concentration in ceramics from Alfred University, completed a one-year apprenticeship at the Rochester Folk Art Guild and spent three summers interning at Coach Street Clay. Today she works as a studio potter with her own business.



Nicholas D. Boylan '08 was unable to attend the event, so his parents accepted the award on his behalf: Don and Stephanie Boylan '09 are shown with lacrosse head coach Dave Stein.

Nicholas D. Boylan '08

In his two years with the Lakers lacrosse team, Nicholas D. Boylan '08 amassed 101 goals and 48 assists. In addition, the Canandaigua Academy graduate was a two-time team Most Valuable Player, a two-time all Mid-State Conference team member, and two-time NJCAA Region III second team member. He held five school records. He was the first student athlete appointed to the Finger Lakes Community College Athletics Advisory Board. He received a scholarship to attend Belmont Abbey College in Charlotte, N.C., where he majored in business administration. As a member of the Belmont Abbey men's lacrosse team, he was named Most Valuable Player in his junior and senior years. He led the team in scoring and was selected for Conference Carolinas All-Conference Men's Lacrosse Teams twice. He now lives in Nevada where he runs an Airbnb and works for Lyft management.



Kelly La Voie '96 is shown with Preston Pierce '79 at the FLCC Alumni Association and Foundation Awards celebration held in May at the main campus. Preston received the Distinguished Alumni Award – be sure to read about it on page 19.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PERKS

Premier benefit: For a minimum \$100 donation to the Alumni Association's Projects Fund you can audit up to four college credits at no cost (per credit hour cost is now \$197).

Your complimentary lifetime membership entitles you to:

- A 15-percent discount on clothing and gift items at the FLCC bookstore, The Book Nook, when you show your FLCC Alumni Association membership card.*
- Use of the FLCC recreation facilities, including the renovated fitness center, when you show your FLCC Alumni Association membership card* Visit flccathletics.com/recreation/fitnesscenter for the schedule.
- Access to the Career Services Office, as well as FLCC Purple Briefcase, an easy-to-use, online career network with access to job listings, career search tools, tips and more.

For a comprehensive list of benefits, visit give.flcc.edu/pages/alumni-association.

*Contact Alumni Relations with questions or to request an FLCC Alumni Association Membership Card: (585) 758-1454 or alumni@flcc.edu.

CLASS notes

Greetings, alumni!

I hope you are enjoying the inaugural edition of The Laker. I was fortunate to have a front row seat to the scene on the cover. It has been a privilege and a thrill these last few years to attend Commencement as the Alumni Association president, to see graduates up close with the mix of joy and pride – and maybe a little relief – on their faces.

After they have all crossed the stage, I welcome the graduates to the Alumni Association. This is the moment when students move their tassels from right to left, and the excitement ripples from the graduate section through all of the CMAC amphitheater.

As the alumni representative at the Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Athletic Field Dedication and other events, I am grateful for the opportunity to engage and give back to the community that played a key role in my own growth and development. I hope you use The Laker to decide how you can give back, perhaps by talking to current students at one of the Alumni Luncheons (see page 27) or contributing to one of the dozens of scholarships that can make all the difference for current students.

Above all, keep in touch. Send us your news for these pages. We want to know where your path took you and how your time at the College laid the groundwork for later life experiences.

Regards,

Kelly LaVoie

Kelly La Voie '96
President, CCFL/FLCC Alumni Association

the 70s

Bill Santelli '73 (Liberal Arts & Sciences) was among the artists featured in the “Legacy” exhibit at Rochester's Oxford Gallery last spring. The show also included artwork by FLCC Professor Emeritus Thomas Insalaco and other artists who were inspired by him. The exhibit also included work by FLCC alumni **Deborah Hall** (attended '00-'03), **Jean Stephens** (attended '93-'94), and **Debra Stewart** (attended '97-'98), as well as other local artists.

Priscilla J. Crawford '76 (Natural Resources Conservation) is enjoying retirement and spending time with her grandchildren. She is also an active volunteer with Operation Christmas Child shoebox outreach and Community Bible Study.

Robin Zefers Clark '77 (Liberal Arts & Sciences) presented watercolor classes at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown based on the naturalist's original body of artwork. Robin has had several solo and group exhibitions and has been featured in articles in Country Woman Magazine, The Buffalo News and Focus. Her work has won awards and is featured in private collections throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. Clark lives in the Allegany mountains, where she owns and operates Brookside Studio.

Class Notes continued on page 24

CLASS notes

Anita Kriese '78 (Registered Nursing) and her husband, John, own and operate Spring Pond Farm in Branchport. They hosted culinary students from FLCC and four other SUNY colleges for a tour in April as part of New York Beef Council's two-day "Farm to Fork" Beef Tour and Cooking Competition.

the 80s



Film composer **Craig William Dayton '82** (Liberal Arts & Sciences/Computer Information Systems) won an award at the 2018 international Best Shorts Competition in California. He received the award for a silent film short comedy called "Doctor, Doctor" to which he scored the music. Mikayla Myers of Los Angeles directed the film.

Suzanne Washburn '82 (Liberal Arts & Sciences) and **Mark Darling '78** (Liberal Arts & Sciences) shared memories of the late A. John Walker, longtime conductor of the Finger Lakes Chorale and professor emeritus at FLCC, at tribute concerts this past May. They were joined by chorale accompanist Ines Draskovic, associate professor of music at FLCC, and director Dennis Maxfield.

Professor **John Van Niel '83** (Natural Resources Conservation) was featured as part of Geneva Reads' 2019 Community Read focusing on memoirs. His presentation, "Writing on the Wild Side," focused on a trip to India where he and his wife visited a national park famous for its large tiger population. Look for John's "Speaking of Nature" column in the Finger Lakes Times newspaper.

Ontario County Sheriff **Kevin Henderson '84** (Criminal Justice), along with his deputies, was among the 600 participants in the Polar Plunge fundraiser at Canandaigua Lake's Kershaw Park in March. This annual event supports Special Olympics New York.

Charlene Fairman '89 (Word Processing) received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service. She has been employed at FLCC for over 10 years as an office specialist. Working in the Community Affairs Office, she handles everything from media inquiries to facility use reservations. In addition, Charlene provides support for the College's commencement ceremony, and serves as a job coach and supervisor to student workers. She created a scholarship, The Awesome As, for a student who plans to work with the disabled.

the 90s

Carol Grover '91, '97 (Liberal Arts & Sciences/Accounting) and her husband, Trevor, own MighTea Boba, a bubble tea business in Canandaigua. In addition, they are sharing space in Geneva Gelato on Exchange Street in downtown Geneva. Carol also works as a CPA.

Nick Violas '91 (Human Services) celebrated the reopening of his Canandaigua restaurant, Nolan's, last October. The original restaurant was destroyed in a 2017 fire.



Professor **John Foust '97** (Natural Resources Conservation) was quoted in a Democrat & Chronicle cover story about the discovery of invasive Asian swamp eels in Hemlock Lake. The dead eels were discovered by student Adam Ballard; John praised Adam's curiosity and determination to identify the unique find.

Donna Spink and **Terry Phillips**, both graduates of FLCC's first paramedic class in 1998, received recognition from the Ontario County Safety Council Awards Dinner in March. In addition, they both received a certificate of special congressional recognition by U.S. Rep. Tom Reed. A few days later at the annual STEP Conference, Donna and Terry, with fellow members of Stanley-Hall-Gorham Ambulance, received the 2019 Joanna Award. This award honors exemplary teamwork at an incident or in the care of a patient that prevented a tragic outcome. In August 2018, they saved the life of a full-term pregnant woman in cardiac arrest. Mother and baby girl reunited with rescuers at the Ontario County Safety Awards Dinner.

the 00s

Ethan Fogg '00 (Business Administration), executive director of the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce, was among the panelists at the Young Entrepreneur Academy (YEA!) CEO Roundtable event held at FLCC in February.

Deputy Patrick Fitzgerald '01 (Criminal Justice) and the Ontario County Sheriff's Office mourned the loss of Frenkie, a retired police dog. Frenkie was a female German Shepherd who served in the K-9 unit from 2006 to 2012. Frenkie was under Deputy Fitzgerald's care and lived with him and his family until she passed away at age 15 last December.

Christi Silliman '03 (Registered Nursing) and her husband, Jim, are the owners and innkeepers of Trimmer House Bed & Breakfast in Penn Yan. Christi is also a part-time emergency room nurse at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital in Penn Yan.

Dave Drago '04 (Music Recording Technology) is celebrating the five-year anniversary of his recording studio, 1809 Studios. In addition to serving as both producer and engineer, Dave has also recently become involved in the development of a new concert series at Point of the Bluff Vineyards on Keuka Lake.

Michael Van Etten '04 (Liberal Arts & Sciences), assistant professor of modern languages at FLCC, will coach the college's varsity eSports team in the upcoming fall semester. The team will specialize in the video game Overwatch.

Josh Pettinger '08 (Music Recording Technology) participated as a percussionist in Honeoye Central School's alumni jazz concert in March. Josh owns Wicked Squid recording studio in Rochester.

Eric Holbein '07 (Graphic Arts) has been creating pottery for about 12 years. His current studio, New Albion Clayworks, is located on his wife's family farm in Cattaraugus. The studio was featured on the Routes to Art Studio Tour in May.

Jarrold Turner '07 (Business Administration) joined Capital Collection Management (CCM) in Syracuse as a collections manager. After completing his degree at FLCC, he continued his education at Keuka College and earned a bachelor's degree in management.



Marie Lopez '08 (Business Administration) and **Daryl Snyder '09** (Business Administration) are employees at Five Star Bank. Marie is vice president and senior business banking relationship manager at Five Star Bank Plaza in Rochester. Daryl is assistant vice president and area sales manager at the Canandaigua branch.

Adam Fryer '09 (Liberal Arts & Sciences) received St. Peter's Academy's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award in April at its annual Dinner with the Arts event. After attending FLCC, he earned degrees in psychology and philosophy at the University at Buffalo. Adam created the Two Herons Drum Circle in 2013, which has grown to include workshops, open jams, drum and dance performances and meditation/wellness drum circles.

the 10s

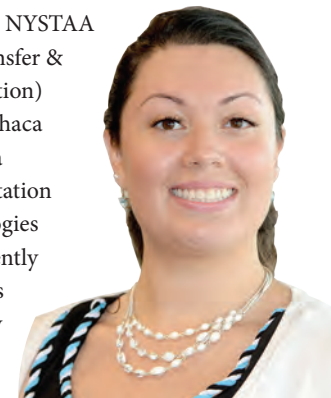
William McLaughlin, assistant professor of computing sciences at FLCC, oversaw much of the research and planning to launch the new varsity eSports team, with support from **Jeff Dugan '13** (Liberal Arts & Sciences), instructional designer, and **Bryson Cole '19**, who earned an A.A.S. in tourism management and was president of the eSports program.

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Nicole Pursati '14** (Liberal Arts & Sciences) graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.



Michael Tucker '17 (Fine Arts) displayed his oil paintings, 3D design, photography, charcoal and pencil drawings last spring in a solo exhibit titled "Veteran to Artist, Overcoming PTSD" at Wood Library in Canandaigua. His work will also be featured in an exhibit set to open in October in the College's Williams-Insalaco Gallery 34.

Kaeyla Erway '18 was invited to speak on a panel at a NYSTAA (New York State Transfer & Articulation Association) conference held in Ithaca in June. She earned a degree in instrumentation and control technologies at FLCC and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in technology management at Alfred State College.



Althea Jones-Johnson '18 (Human Services), fourth from left, gave a student's perspective on imposter syndrome at Monroe Community College's Inclusive Higher Education: Inspiring Change from Within event held on March 13. Supporting Althea were, from left, Jonathan Keiser, provost; Veronica Bargy from the office of Academic Success and Access Programs; Sarah Heisman from Student Affairs; Mehegan Murphy from Academic Advising, Career and Transfer Services, and Sim Covington, chief diversity officer.

ENGAGEMENTS

Susan Nanna (attended '10) to Jared Pedder. Susan is employed as a registered nurse with Lifetime Home Health Care and Hospice in Auburn.



Pupdate: Catching up with Lynx

A yellow lab pup named Lynx nearly stole the show when he crossed the Constellation Brands-Marvin Sands Performing Arts Center stage during FLCC's 2018 commencement ceremony, pausing to shake "paws" with College President Robert K. Nye as his handler, Bethany Reinhardt, received her associate degree. Lynx was a guide dog-in-training for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and had become something of a campus celebrity.



Bethany recently reached out with a share-worthy pupdate: Lynx successfully completed an 8-month harness training program and was recently matched with an avid outdoorsman and recent college graduate named Tom in Alaska.

Bethany met Tom and got to see Lynx again at their graduation ceremony in April.

Bethany, meanwhile, is now a regional manager for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and has some big news herself: She recently married fellow trainer David Oliver, shown in photo below.



IN MEMORIAM

Elaine Lomber, retired professor of English and first director of the College's Honors Program, passed away on July 9. She was 87.

Elaine retired in 1995 after a more than 20-year career as a College faculty member. During that time, she served as chair of the Humanities Department and was the first director of the College's Honors Program. In addition, she served as a member of the FLCC Foundation Board of Directors.

A favorite among students, she was known for her wit and dry sense of humor.

Prior to joining the then-Community College of the Finger Lakes, Elaine taught high school English. In addition to literature, she loved theatre and her passion for acting never waned. She worked with the Bristol



Valley Playhouse in Naples for over 20 years, during which she held leading roles in several productions, including "Blithe Spirit," "Butterflies are Free" and "The Spiral Staircase."

Elaine also did voiceover work for radio commercials, reviewed movies for the Daily Messenger, edited publications for the historical society and supported the Wood Library.

Her legacy continues at FLCC in the alma mater; she wrote the lyrics (David McGuire, professor of music, wrote the score).



Harry Burt, a trustee emeritus who advocated for the establishment of the viticulture and wine technology program, passed away on July 17 at age 87.

Harry served on the Board of Trustees from 1995 until 2012. He served as its chair, vice chair and secretary. He also served as liaison to the county's FLCC Projects Committee. He advocated for the development of the viticulture and wine technology program, which received SUNY

and state Education Department approval in fall 2009, and for construction of the Viticulture and Wine Center, which opened in Geneva in 2015. The classroom in the state-of-the-art facility is named in his honor.

In addition to the viticulture center, the College marked numerous milestones during Harry's tenure, including the construction of the \$30 million Student Center, an \$18 million renovation of the main campus, the redevelopment of the Geneva Campus Center, and the establishment of the Victor Campus Center.

After serving as a trustee, Harry served on the FLCC Foundation Board of Directors. He was honored in 2014 with the Foundation Award for his friendship and advocacy on behalf of the College. He received numerous awards for his community service, including with the Clifton Springs Rotary Club, the Geneva Historical Society, Catholic Charities, the Geneva Kiwanis Club and Geneva General Hospital – to name a few.

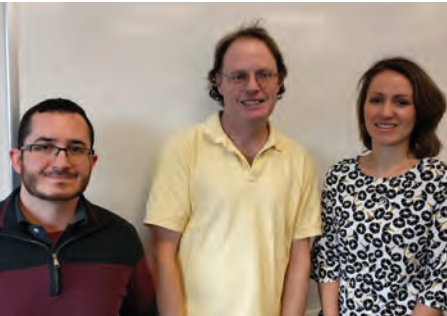
CLASS notes

Sharing stories of success

Alumni visited the Geneva, Victor and Newark campus centers in the spring semester to talk about their career journeys and offer advice and inspiration to current students. The events were sponsored by the CCFL/FLCC Alumni Association, with support from the FLCC Student Corporation.



The Geneva Campus Center hosted its fifth annual Alumni Success Stories event on April 18. Three members of the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce staff discussed their careers; two are FLCC alumni: Tara Johnson, left, who earned an A.A.S. in marketing, and Andrea Deckert '96, right, who earned an A.S. in liberal arts and sciences. (In the center is SUNY Oswego alumna Miranda Odell.)



Engineering and technology alumni and students met at the Victor Campus Center on April 3 to discuss educational and career opportunities. Featured alumni speakers were Eric Davis '10, systems engineer at SRC, Inc.; Richard (Ken) Meehan '91, a wastewater operator with Nalco Water/EcoLab Inc.; and Michelle Sommerman '95, project engineer at Bergmann-Architects Engineers Planners.



The Newark Campus Center held its fourth Alumni Success Stories event on April 11. Alumni speakers included Tami Cocuzzi '12, '13, director of operations and co-founder of Grace Race Ministries Inc., a not-for-profit that provides mentors to at-risk youth through the sport of motocross. She was joined by Gregory DeWolf '96, operations manager at the Wayne County 911 Emergency Communications Department, and Gina Donnelly '93, co-owner of Entrusted Care, which provides assistance with

aging-related safety and well-being to seniors and their families in Wayne, Ontario, Yates and Seneca counties. They are pictured with Lisa Scott, alumni engagement coordinator, at left.

from the archives



This photo was taken in the bookstore for the then-Community College of the Finger Lakes sometime in 1969, six years before the main campus was built on Lincoln Hill. The bookstore, like most of the CCFL classrooms, was located in downtown Canandaigua, hence the first faculty and students are referred to as “Storefront Pioneers.” Do you know who is shown in this photo, or do you have a photo from the College’s past you’d like to share? Contact Lisa Scott, alumni engagement coordinator, at Lisa.Scott@fllcc.edu or (585) 785-1454.

FLCC’s first-ever history book

Copies of a commemorative book chronicling the history of FLCC are still available. Released on the College’s golden anniversary in 2018, the book is titled “This Bold Decision: The Story of Finger Lakes Community College.” It is a reference to the Ontario County Board of Supervisors’ decision to create the College, taken from the inauguration speech of the first president, Roy Satre.

More than 750 faculty, staff, students, trustees and county officials are mentioned, quoted or shown in the 300 plus photos. Among them is Kathy Trautman, who was first in line to sign up for classes. As a working mother, she took classes on and off until she had enough credits to get her degree in 1990. Trautman now lives in Georgia.

The 124-page book was written and designed by FLCC Community Affairs staff: Sarah Butler of Canandaigua, Lenore Friend of South Bristol and Jessica Youngman of Newark.



FLCC was established during the community college movement of the mid-20th century as the space race and social change prompted demand for expanded higher education options. As the authors note in the book’s acknowledgments, “Stories of pioneers in this American experiment played out in towns and cities across the country. ‘This Bold Decision’ is a retelling of some of those stories with an intentional emphasis on the college’s early years and our own pioneers’ reflections.”

For more information about the book, contact the Community Affairs Office at (585) 785-1623. To purchase online, visit give.fllcc.edu and click on Events in the menu bar.

SEPTEMBER



George M. Ewing Canandaigua Forum: The State of the Union and its Peoples

Michael Winship and Bill Moyers,
award-winning writers/commentators

Sunday, Sept. 22, 4 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium
\$25 per person or \$80 for all four
season events

Visit gmeforum.org for information
and to purchase tickets

Barb Etzel Memorial Art Collection premier exhibition

Exhibit opens Thursday, Sept. 19
Opening events:
Thursday, Oct. 10 – Donor’s talk,
2 to 3:30 p.m.; reception, 4 to 6:30 p.m.
Williams-Insalaco Gallery 34,
FLCC main campus

Art collected by the late
FLCC Prof. of Psychology
Barbara Etzel, including
a variety of African masks and
Outsider art by American
artists, will be on display.
The pieces were donated
in memory of Dr. Etzel
by her husband.
The exhibit runs
through Oct. 25.
Free entry



save the date



Dinner at Julia offers fine dining experience

On select Friday evenings during the fall semester, FLCC’s culinary arts and hospitality programs transform Stage 14 at the main campus into a gourmet dining experience for the public. Five-course, gourmet dinners are prepared and served by culinary arts students, with seatings between 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Tentative dates for 2019 are: Sept. 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, and 25
(paired with the FLCC Music Faculty Recital); Nov. 1 and 8.

The \$40 cost per person includes tax and tip. For reservations,
call (585) 785-1476. Details and menus at fllcc.edu/restaurant.

save the date



OCTOBER



George M. Ewing Canandaigua Forum: Inside the Beltway: Sausage-Making and Trumpism

Mark Shields, political analyst
and PBS NewsHour commentator

Sunday, Oct. 6, 4 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium
\$25 per person or \$80 for all four
season events

Visit gmeforum.org for information
and to purchase tickets



8th Annual FLCC Logging Sports Competition

Saturday, Oct. 12, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
FLCC main campus
(near CMAC parking lot)
For more info, visit
flccathletics.com/sports/wood

Fall Faculty Music Recital

Friday,
October 25, 7:30 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium
Free entry; consider pairing with
Dinner at Julia (see page 29)



Veterans Art, featuring photos by Michael Tucker '17

Exhibit opening: Monday, Oct. 28
Exhibit events: Thursday,
Oct. 31 – Artist's talk, 2 to 3:30 p.m.;
reception, 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Williams-Insalaco Gallery 34,
FLCC main campus

Exhibit features the photography
of FLCC alumnus and veteran
Michael Tucker. This exhibit will be
coordinated with the showing of the
Veteran's Book Project at the new
FLCC ArtSpace36 gallery at 36.
S. Main St. in downtown Canandaigua.
The exhibit runs through Nov. 8.
Free entry

10-minute Play Festival

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 12:10 p.m.
Stage 14, FLCC main campus
Theatre students present
10-minute plays
Free entry

NOVEMBER

George M. Ewing Canandaigua Forum: Turtle Island's Treaties: Honor and Activism



G. Peter
Jemison, artist and historic site manager
at the Ganondagan State Historic Site
in Victor, and Don Ragona, director of
development and house counsel for the
Native American Rights Fund in Colorado

Sunday, Nov. 10, 4 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium
\$25 per person or \$80 for all four
season events

Visit gmeforum.org for information
and to purchase tickets

Rochester Print Club Members' Exhibition

Exhibit opening events:
Thursday, Nov. 14 Artist's talk, 2 to 3 p.m.;
reception, 4 to 6:30 p.m.
Williams-Insalaco Gallery 34,
FLCC main campus

The Rochester Print Club is one of the
oldest independent art clubs in Rochester.
Its membership is both national and
international. Its former president, Barbara
McPhail, was featured in the gallery in 2014.
The exhibit runs through Jan. 17, 2020.
Free entry

Fall Mainstage Theatre Production

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" by Steve Martin
Friday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 16, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium

\$8 for adults and \$5 non-FLCC students,
free with current FLCC ID

DECEMBER

Mime Show

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 12:30 p.m.
Classroom 2267, FLCC
main campus
FLCC theatre student performance
Free entry

Finger Lakes Camerata concert

Saturday, Dec. 7 and
Sunday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium
Free entry; donations accepted
for scholarship fund

Student Jazz Ensemble concert

Monday, Dec. 9 and
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Stage 14, FLCC main campus
Free entry

Winter Concert

Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium
Featuring the percussion, guitar
and vocal jazz ensembles and
the College Singers
Free entry

Finger Lakes Chorale holiday concert

Saturday, Dec. 14 and
Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium
Free entry; donations accepted
for scholarship fund

continued on page 32

save the date



Book Feast is a popular annual fundraiser
that supports student success at FLCC.
For the third year in a row, it will be paired
with another popular tradition at FLCC:
Dinner at Julia.

Named in honor of the late chef Julia Child,
the dinner is held several Friday evenings
during the fall semester. Culinary arts
students prepare and serve gourmet dinners
in FLCC's Stage 14, which is transformed
into an upscale restaurant. Book Feast
participants will be served in their own
private room at the main campus. Each book
will be featured on a different Julia evening.

What happens at Book Feast? Begin the
evening at 5:30 p.m. in the FLCC Student
Center and get acquainted with your fellow
dinner companions over award-winning wine
created by students in FLCC's viticulture
program. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.
Participants will then savor four courses and
delve into a lively discussion led by a faculty
member who will offer a unique perspective
on the evening's book selection.

The price per ticket is \$75, or you may select
any three dates for \$200. Book Feast will be
held on the four Friday evenings in October.

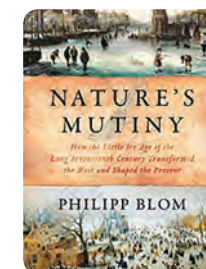
For more information, and to reserve your
seat, go to www.flcc.edu/bookfeast. Space
is limited to 12 guests per evening.

Copies of the featured books are on reserve
at the college library and are available
for purchase at the FLCC Book Nook
Questions? Contact lisa.scott@flcc.edu
or call (585) 785-1454.



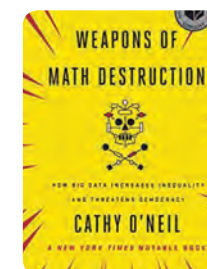
Oct. 4:
"Tasting the Past:
The Science of
Flavor and the Search
for the Origins
of Wine" by
Kevin Begos;
moderated by

Meaghan Frank, general manager at Dr.
Konstantin Frank Winery



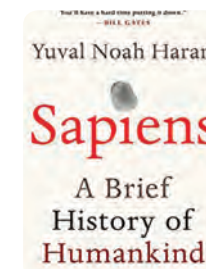
Oct. 18:
"Nature's Mutiny:
How the Little Ice
Age of the Long
Seventeenth Century
Transformed the
West and Shaped
the Present"

by Philipp Blom; moderator TBD



Oct. 11:
"Weapons of
Math Destruction:
How Big Data
Increases Inequality
and Threatens
Democracy" by

Cathy O'Neil; moderated by Charlotte Cline,
FLCC associate professor of humanities



Oct. 25:
"Sapiens:
A Brief History
of Humankind" by
Yuval Noah Harari,
moderated by
James Hewlett,

FLCC professor of biology.

save the date

JANUARY

Biennial Alumni Art Show

Exhibit opening events:

Thursday, Jan. 30 – Artist's talk, 2 to 3 p.m.;
reception, 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Williams-Insalaco Gallery 34,
FLCC main campus

Alumni of FLCC and the former Community College of the Finger Lakes (CCFL) will exhibit their work. This exhibit will be coordinated with the showing of alumni work and demonstration at the new FLCC ArtSpace36 at 36 S. Main St. in downtown Canandaigua. The exhibit runs through Feb. 28.
Free entry



George M. Ewing
Canandaigua Forum:
Sustainable Agriculture:
Gaining Ground and Growing Tomorrow

Forrest Pritchard, organic farmer and author of "Gaining Ground: A Story of Farmers' Markets, Local Food and Saving the Family Farm"

Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, 4 p.m.
FLCC Student Center Auditorium
\$25 per person or \$80 for all four season events

Visit gmeforum.org for information and to purchase tickets

FEBRUARY

Vintners & Valentines

Winemakers Dinner showcasing Finger Lakes Wineries – a fundraiser for FLCC's Viticulture and Hospitality Degree Programs

Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, 6 p.m.

Student Center Café, Canandaigua Campus
For tickets, call (585) 785-1205.



Winemakers dinner returns on Feb. 7

Mark your calendar: The fifth annual Vintners & Valentines winemakers dinner is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 at the FLCC main campus.

The fundraising event features Finger Lakes wines and the people who make them, a five-course meal prepared by the college's culinary arts students, a wine pull, and live and silent auctions.

Twenty-seven Finger Lakes wineries participated in this year's event, pairing wines with the meal, and providing a winemaker for each table. Live auction items included an F.L.X. Table premiere tasting experience with master sommelier Christopher Bates and an hour of flying over the Finger Lakes in a private aircraft

Twenty-seven Finger Lakes wineries participated this year, pairing wines with the meal, and providing a winemaker for each table. This included Paul Brock, associate professor and owner of Silver Thread Winery, shown pouring at his table. More photos are available for download on FLCC's Flickr page (look for the Vintners & Valentines 2019 album).

flown by pilot, local adventurer and FLCC Foundation board member Kevin Flynn '79.

Vintners and Valentines is coordinated by a committee that includes alumni Margaret Lorenzetti '82, Gina Lee '13, Eric Frarey '84, Tim Benedict '76, and Sarah Genecco '07 and several other friends of the College, faculty and staff.

Tickets will soon go on sale at the FLCC Foundation, (585) 785-1205, foundation@flcc.edu or at give.flcc.edu.

Proceeds from the event will go directly to the College's viticulture and wine technology degree program and hospitality programs, which include culinary arts and the new hospitality and tourism management degree. These programs require specialized equipment, making community support critical for maintaining the quality of the student experience.

partingshot



Never too late

In June, FLCC celebrated the 103 students who earned high school equivalency diplomas over the last year through FLCC's free Adult Basic Education program. Graduates have to pass the state's Test for Assessing Secondary Completion, or TASC.

Several students spoke about their reasons for leaving high school and enrolling at FLCC to get their diploma. Crystal Hartman of Waterloo was among them. She was anxious about going back to school as an adult, and doing so alongside a group of people she had never met. Her nerves were calmed by teachers who she said, "Greeted me with open arms." When she passed the required exams, she said, "The first person I told was my daughter, Megan. She has been such a great supporter for me...A new chapter in my life has begun."

FLCC offers high school equivalency classes in Ontario, Wayne and Yates counties. For more information, call (585) 785-1431 or 785-1544.

Lucero Fabela, shown in the front, is among the program graduates, celebrated with a ceremony held over the summer.

**Alumni Relations and
Community Affairs**

3325 Marvin Sands Drive
Canandaigua, NY 14424

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*If this issue is addressed to someone
who no longer maintains a permanent
address at your home, contact us
at (585) 785-1454 or alumni@flcc.edu,
or clip the address label and return
it with the current address to the
FLCC address above.*



Your gift to the FLCC Foundation helps students like Brianna

Brianna Smith '19 was a recipient of the Found Word Scholarship, established by her professor and mentor, Dr. Trista Merrill. Brianna hopes to earn a master's degree and become an English professor at a community college.

"Amid the endless testing, work, and studying, it's easy to become disillusioned — to lose sight of one's goals and desires or to believe that the future is unachievable," Brianna said.

"To be recognized, to have it understood that my story matters and that there are people willing to assist me with it, is one of the most impactful and beneficial gifts I could be blessed with."

Receiving the Found Word scholarship meant I was able to continue financially, while also providing a sort of emotional fortitude. Because of that scholarship, and others like it, I am now a graduate of FLCC and am pursuing my bachelor's degree in literature as part of my journey toward professorship."

Consider making a gift to help other students like Brianna achieve their dreams at FLCC. Use the envelope inside this magazine, visit give.flcc.edu, or call us at (585) 785-1421.