



Important Dates...

HCC Foundation sponsored events

Shindig IV

Sat., August 16, 2014
hosted by Rocky and
Dawn Zuberbuhler

Madrigal Dinner

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014
Chestnut Mountain
Resort, Galena

Thank you to our Shindig sponsors!

Platinum

Big Radio

Gold

Monroe Clinic

Silver

Fehr-Graham

Fifth Third Bank

Winter Construction

Woodbine Bend Golf
Course

Bronze

Pearson Plumbing and
Pest Control

known as of publication date.



Shindig IV: COUNTRY FAIR • August 16

Do you have fond memories of going to the fair or the local small town annual "fest" when you were a kid? Did you ever wish you could relive those memories, but with less crowds, cooler prizes, and perhaps just grownups attending? And what if all of that fun was in the name of a good local cause, higher education? It would be perfect, right?

This year's fourth annual "Shindig" fundraising event will be held the evening of Saturday, August 16. The theme of this year's Shindig will be "Country Fair," and it will be held at the country Victorian home of Rocky and Dawn Zuberbuhler in rural Freeport. The food that day will have a country fair/ BBQ theme and the beverages will be ice cold. We'll have fitting music, midway games, popcorn, and special attractions.

The Shindig committee is busy making plans for this awesome event, and is soliciting business sponsorships and donations of auction items, large and small, as well as cash to help defray some of the event's costs. This way, the greatest "net" possible goes toward the Foundation's Major Gifts Campaign, "Growing for tomorrow... changing lives today." This campaign raises funds to continue support of the Ray and Betty Stamm Health Science Nursing Wing, the Wind Turbine Technology facility on campus, and also scholarship and program enhancements related to these majors.

Tickets and sponsorships are available online at highland.thankyou4caring.org, or by calling the Foundation office. Jim Berberet, Foundation Executive Director, adds, "Donations of auction items and volunteers for setup, event night, and cleanup the day after are needed. And this year, volunteering your time can even yield you a free Shindig ticket!"

This year, e-blasts and the Foundation website will be used to let people know in advance the sponsors who are onboard and the exciting array of auction items that will be available. Do we have YOUR email address?? Why don't you make sure of that, by sending it to us at foundation@highland.edu

Call us at 815-599-3413, to purchase tickets, secure a sponsorship, donate auction items, or volunteer to help out. We'd love to have you be part of the fun!



2014 Golf Outing – a Big Hit !!
Please see page 2.



Major Sponsorship Opportunities for Shindig IV Aug. 16, 2014

Platinum Sponsor
\$2,500 • Includes two tables of eight at the event, premium full-page ad in the program, and welcome banner

Gold Sponsor
\$1,500 • Includes a table of eight at the event and a full-page ad in the program

Silver Sponsor
\$750 • Includes four tickets to the event and a half-page ad in the program

Bronze Sponsor
\$400 • Includes two tickets to the event and a quarter-page ad in the program

(multiple opportunities available)

Interested in a sponsorship? Contact the Foundation at 815.599.3413 or visit highland.thankyou4caring.org

2014 Golf Outing – a Big Hit !!

The Foundation's 18th Annual Leadership Golf Outing was held on Monday, June 2 at the Freeport Country Club. It was a big success, including the made-to-order weather that developed after a mid-morning storm went through. Whew! The Foundation was again able to donate \$10,000 of the net proceeds to the HCC Leadership Institute and Forum, to benefit the scholarships they offer to their participants each year.

The Foundation is extremely grateful to the volunteers, prize donors, providers of food and beverages, on-course sponsors,

our 27 hole sponsors, and the following major sponsors, for helping make this event a very effective fundraiser – and a fundraiser as well!!

Gold Sponsor: Monroe Clinic

Silver Sponsors: Fehr Graham, Fifth Third, Foresight Financial, Richard L. Johnson, QBE, Seaga, Titan International, Winter Construction, and Woodbine Bend Championship Golf Course

Bronze Sponsor: Helm Group

Brat & Burger Lunch Sponsor: Loescher Heating and A/C

Dinner Sponsor: Berner Food and Beverage



Golf Ball Sponsor: Beggin Tipp Lamm LLC

Big Beverage Bucket Sponsors: Barbara Camp, Joe & Jennifer Kanosky

Dessert Sponsors: Anonymous, Journal Standard

Double Play 2014 Supports Major Gifts Campaign

Donations and pledges to the HCC Foundation's Major Gift Campaign now total \$3,747,849, thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses from around northwest Illinois. However, more than \$3 million still needs to be raised so that the Foundation can fulfill its pledge to help Highland Community College retire the debt, according to James M. Berberet, Foundation Executive Director.

The Foundation's Double Play campaign is now in its second of five years. Double Play will match donations dollar-for-dollar up to the first \$72,000 during 2014. Donors to the 2014 Matching Pool include:

- \$50,000 from an anonymous donor in Jo Daviess County
- \$10,000 from an anonymous donor in Stephenson County
- \$6,000 from Stephenson Service Company
- \$6,000 from Citizens State Bank

Donors who wish to participate can designate their gifts to the "greatest needs of Highland Community College" or to the current major gift campaign -- "Growing for tomorrow... changing lives today."

Donations to the Major Gift Campaign, along with revenue from debt certificates issued by the College, have allowed both the Stamm Health Science Nursing Wing and the Wind Turbine Technology Center to be constructed and occupied by students and faculty.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity to double your donation for higher education in northwest Illinois, please use the pledge envelope included with this newsletter, or contact the Highland Community College Foundation office at 815-599-3413. Donations can also be made online at highland.thankyou4caring.org.



Communication
transmission of information
messages, or thoughts
by speech, writing, signals
as mail, telephone, television

Drive to Communicate: HCC as a Roadway to Careers in Media Communications

By Kim Rampenthal

"A strong educational foundation"... "a wonderful resource"... "a blessing for our family"... "I found my passion"... these are all words used by a select group of Highland Community College alumni to describe HCC. And what do the members of this "select group" have in common?? All are professionals in one or more fields of media communication, including print/online news, radio, and marketing. All attended HCC at some point in the past – some to complete a degree before transferring to a 4-year institution, some for a few courses to improve skill sets, and others for development as community leaders via the College's Leadership Institute or Leadership Forum.

We recently caught up with seven HCC alumni working in media communications, to ask them what HCC meant to each of them as a stepping-stone along their educational pathways, and how it helped shape them or develop them toward their current careers.

The HCC alums that we interviewed included:

- Angie Field, Journalist and Ad Sales Representative, Carroll County Mirror-Democrat and Savannah Times-Journal
- Shary Gibson, On-Air Personality, Promotions Director, and Account Executive, Big Radio
- Harriett Gustason, Feature Writer, Journal Standard
- Teresa Hannaman, Advertising Representative, The Galena Gazette
- P. Carter Newton, Publisher, The Galena Gazette
- Brian Reusch, Station Manager and Sports Broadcaster, WCCI 100.3 FM
- Don Wertz, Sports Director and Account Executive, Big Radio

All seven individuals interviewed had interesting stories to tell about their educational journeys to where they are today. We wish we had space here to share more details! But we'll have to settle for "the broad strokes," the factors their stories had in common.

Across the seven interviews, three overarching themes emerged:

- HCC offers flexibility, which enhances retention and acts to keep people progressing toward their educational goals.
- HCC provides opportunities to obtain or refine skill sets needed for one's future livelihood.
- HCC is valuable in helping to solidify students' individual passions or focusing their professional interests.

First, in reference to HCC's flexibility, some of our interviewees found that an HCC education offered the flexibility needed to simultaneously pursue career-related activities (such as internships or part-time jobs), which made them even more ready to transition into their chosen fields when they completed their education. For example, Don Wertz was able to work at WFRL radio part-time while a Highland student

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Our Media Communication Alumni Panel



Angie Field

Carroll County Mirror-Democrat
and Savannah Times-Journal



Shary Gibson

Big Radio



Harriett Gustason

Journal Standard

Drive to Communicate: HCC as a Roadway to Careers in Media Communications, *continued from page 3*



Teresa Hannaman
The Galena Gazette



P. Carter Newton
The Galena Gazette



Brian Reusch
WCCI 100.3 FM Radio



Don Werntz
Big Radio

in the 1970s, and Angie Field had a graphic design internship while at HCC, which led directly to her being hired by the newspaper group for which she now works.

Another form of HCC's flexibility relates to balancing family responsibilities. Harriett Gustason of the Journal Standard notes, "HCC has been a blessing for our family." She was able to complete her associate's degree, one course at a time, during the 1970s, while raising her family.

The second recurring theme might seem obvious to some, since it is seen as a key role of education in general—the opportunity to gain new skills or refine existing skill sets. Several of our interviewees told how much they utilize on a daily basis in their work, the skills they learned or refined at HCC. P. Carter Newton states, "HCC provides a great resource and helps augment personal skill sets," and Brian Reusch comments, "HCC helped create a skill set that I still use today on a regular basis, specifically dealing with writing, speaking, and interacting with others.... HCC helped me develop confidence in myself and cultivate a desire to do my very best."

Another radio professional, Shary Gibson, is like-minded in this regard; she notes, "HCC gave me an important set of business tools that I use every day, including accounting, math skills, communication skills, public

speaking and presentation, as well as time management and organization." Shary concludes, "I received a strong educational foundation that helped me further my career in broadcasting and public relations."

Angie Field relates that she learned very specific techniques and software needed for her current job: "Since I was an adult returning to school after many years, I wasn't sure I'd be able to catch up with all the new technology... but HCC had all the tools I needed to make me employable." Teresa Hannaman, alumna of several HCC courses and the Jo Daviess County Leadership Forum, lauds the less-measurable but equally-valuable interpersonal benefits she received at HCC, saying "I have built many new friendships and business relationships."

The third and final theme that several participants touched upon was the discernment/goal-focusing aspect of their time at HCC. Brian Reusch notes, "It was during the time at Highland that I found my true passion, which is radio!" Harriett Gustason had worked as a county correspondent (a "stringer") for her small-town paper for some years before coming to HCC, and then refined and rekindled her love of journalism while at HCC, so she was more than

ready when an employment opportunity at the Journal Standard became available in 1982. Don Werntz came to HCC in 1974, majoring in Political Science and aiming for a law degree, but by the time he earned his associates and transferred to NIU to complete his bachelor's degree, he'd decided instead to major in Radio-TV and minor in Poli Sci, and not head to law school.

All in all, the seven media professionals and HCC alumni were grateful for their time at HCC, acknowledging that without HCC's flexibility, its teaching of valuable skillsets (both "hard" and "soft" skills), and its encouraging atmosphere that promoted finding oneself, none of them would be where they are today. So from now on, when you hear these alums on the radio, hear or see ads they have sold for their employer, or read a news article with one of their by-lines, you can know that Highland Community College played an important role in getting them to their current professions and livelihoods.





Special Visitor Attends Alumni Roundup in April

On April 23, an "Alumni Roundup" event was held at Sievert's Steaks 'n' Stuff in Mount Carroll. Foundation staffers and President Kanosky enjoyed seeing familiar alumni faces and meeting some new ones! The back room at Sievert's was perfect for our small but lively group. Guests enjoyed pizza, appetizers, and soft drinks, courtesy of the Foundation. As usual, our Alumni Steering Committee made sure to get around the room and greet various people.

But the most popular guest was our special visitor, the HCC Cougar, who made people grin, posed for pics, and roamed in and out of the restaurant, waving at and drawing the puzzled attention of passing motorists (and the local police)!! Many thanks to HCC student Rodney Voss for making the Cougar's attendance possible.

The purpose of our Alumni Roundups is simply to reach out to alumni throughout the district, to provide them with brief updates on HCC and make

sure we have people's current contact information, so we can keep them in the HCC loop going forward. Most colleges find that their alumni are their best "goodwill ambassadors," and HCC is no exception – take a look at the back page of this newsletter, for example!

Stay tuned for info on our next alumni roundup, which will be in a different region of the HCC district.

Mark your calendars for...

Madrigal Dinner at Chestnut Mountain Resort 2014

(a fundraiser for the HCC Department of Fine Arts)



Thursday evening, December 11, 2014

details to follow in a future newsletter

HCC Foundation Recognizes Distinguished Alumni

The Highland Community College Foundation presented its 19th annual Distinguished Alumni Awards last October 2013 at the Freeport Country Club. The distinguished alumni are nominated each fall by friends, family members and peers. The applications are then reviewed by a selection committee made up of foundation staff, board members and Alumni Association steering committee members.

This honored distinction is reserved for individuals who exemplify community leadership, demonstrate professional achievement, and believe in the mission of community colleges and higher education. The 2013 award recipients (L to R in the photo) were Jeff Cowman (Freeport), Dick Paul (Gautier, MS), Scott Peska (Sycamore, IL), Anne Cox (Freeport), Chad McNett (DeKalb, IL), and Sherri Kornfeind (Freeport).

Nominations are now being accepted for the 20th Annual 2014 Distinguished Alumni awards. To download a nomination form, go to www.highland.edu/alumni. Nominations for the 2014 awards are due September 3, 2014.





THE BUCKET

HCC Foundation

R. Todd Weegens, President
Jim Berberet, Executive Director
Pat Dunn, Director of Operations
Kim Rampenthal, Director of Fundraising
Joanne Kasprzak, Secretary

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Stay in the loop with HCC Foundation! Be sure you can receive our e-blasts and important updates. Send an email to us at Foundation@highland.edu, with "Current email address" in the subject line and your full first and last name in the body of the email.

Alumni Updates

Jolene Bohnsack, Warren

"A 1992 graduate of Warren High School, I'm proud to have graduated from HCC in 1995 with an Associate Degree in Business Administration. I am also an alumnus of the HCC Leadership Institute. I owe my career to HCC, as I would have never known about the opportunity of working at Kent Bank if it wasn't for HCC. Currently a Sr. Vice President for Kent Bank, I am responsible for overall financial management, operations and administration of customer services. I also serve on the executive team that provides administrative, business planning and marketing for the bank."



Mark Fryer, Columbus, Georgia

"Every job I had during my 40 year Human Resources career was built on the foundation of having two college degrees -- first from HCC, and then from Cardinal Stritch University. With my HCC beginnings, I was able to handle various challenges over the years and seize new opportunities. My wife Julie and I are now retired in Georgia. Both of our kids attended HCC. Our son has a successful career at Chase Bank in downtown Chicago. Our daughter teaches 1st grade in the same classroom she attended as a 1st grader, at St. Joseph's Catholic Grade School."



Misty Thrumen, McConnell

"After graduating with my A.A. from HCC in 1994, I transferred to Rockford University where I received my B.A. in 1996. I earned my M.A. in 1999 and my Ph.D. in 2005, both from Northern Illinois University. During that time, I also worked at a nonprofit organization where I collaborated with educational researchers, policymakers, and practitioners across the nation in designing and conducting research studies and evaluations. In 2007, I returned to Freeport and to HCC where I serve as the director of institutional research. I really enjoy working with the entire college community, providing timely and accurate data and information to support decision making and institutional effectiveness."



Christie Wheetly, Galena

"At first, I was an art education major at HCC, but then I switched to Cosmetology. I was a grateful recipient of the Baldwin Scholarship when I was a Cosmetology student. I graduated in 2012. During my time at HCC, I had some wonderful opportunities -- I worked as a volunteer stylist for a film production in Rockford ("The Darkening") and placed well in hair competitions. The HCC Cosmetology program prepared me with a very solid foundation of knowledge.... but once you graduate, it's up to you to expand from there. I currently work as a stylist at Reneu Salon in Galena."



Send your alumni updates to foundation@highland.edu