



Shindig VI

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Shindig VI: Luau at King's Island

By the time 5:00 rolled around and Shindig VI: Luau at King's Island kicked off, the sun was shining brightly, the breeze was strong, and the sweet smell of summer and pineapples was in the air. However, the weather leading up to the event with days of solid rain, lightning, and winds gave the HCC Foundation's committee a bit of a headache... to say the least. As guests gathered at Scott and Kathy King's home on Saturday, August 20, 2016, you could feel the enthusiasm for HCC.

There were many options for socializing while listening to the Wacky Keys live Hawaiian music. Speciality beverages were mixed, Generations Brewery beer was showcased, and Troy and Donna Lessman outdid themselves with the menu. Jim Berberet, HCC Foundation's Executive Director, explained, "The Shindig is the Foundation's most encompassing activity during the year. We really appreciate and thank the more than 425 people who attended our event for their generous support."

After dining, many guests mingled among the silent auction items, got a beverage or two, and caught up with friends, both old and new. Doug Munda, an HCC nursing alum and Shindig auctioneer, and his dad, Roland, encouraged eager bidders toward the many auction items.

The Kings' backyard was filled with Hawaiian music, talking stuffed parrots, palm trees, grass skirts, leis, and gorgeous tropical centerpieces created by Craig Deininger and his team.

As in past years, when planning and organizing the Shindig, the Foundation made conscious decisions to seek local vendors and suppliers from within Highland's four-county district. Items from food/beverages to rentals to supplies were obtained from throughout the HCC District.

Plans are underway for next year's event. Stay tuned!





Manufacturing Some Local Support: Foundation Helps Advanced Manufacturing and Mechatronics Secure Funding for Program Enhancements

Since August, 2014, the manufacturing program at Highland has been led by Mr. Aaron Sargent, the program's instructor and coordinator. The program has been in a period of expansion and renewal—including program changes aimed at better alignment with local workforce needs.

The most notable change in this area is the recent addition of the A.A.S. in Mechatronics degree as an option in HCC's manufacturing-related programs. There are also two related certificate programs, namely, Industrial Maintenance and Electronics & Controls.

Advanced Manufacturing and Mechatronics are two distinct disciplines. According to Scott Anderson, Dean of Business and Technology, "Advanced Manufacturing is about

using current technology to manufacture parts via CAD, 3D printing and CNC machining. Mechatronics is about developing skills to keep facilities' electrical and mechanical devices running."

The Foundation has helped secure some of the funding necessary for both A.A.S. programs and their related certificate programs to have the most up-to-date equipment, relevant instruction, and cutting-edge technology – all of which will go a long way toward making graduates much-sought-after as employees.

Here's what has happened in the last two years:

- Feb. 2015 – Danfoss contributes \$7,000 to Advanced Manufacturing. (Business & Technology Dean Scott Anderson gets credit for securing this gift!)
- May 2015 – Forreston State Bank pledges a three-year scholarship which will be awarded each year to a student in one of four select A.A.S. majors, including Advanced Manufacturing.

- June 2015 – New CNC equipment and several Haas simulators are purchased with \$113,000 from the estate of RC and Dorothy Clock.
- April 2016 – Foresight Financial makes a five-year pledge of \$37,500 to Advanced Manufacturing at HCC. (This is half of their \$75K pledge; the other half goes to the Major Gifts Campaign.)
- July 2016 – Jo-Carroll Energy donates \$4,000 in support of "Manufacturing Day" for high school students in Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties.

The areas of mechatronics and advanced manufacturing remain high on the College's list of funding priorities for the next few years, and the Foundation's work to engage support for this sector is just beginning. For more information on how you or your company can partner with HCC Foundation in support of these programs, contact Jim Berberet at 815-599-3413 or jim.berberet@highland.edu.





2016 HCC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI: At the October 20 annual board dinner of the Highland Community College Foundation, Distinguished Alumni awards were presented to (L to R): Tim Engebretson (Knoxville, IL); Wendy McGath (Freeport); Mark Smith (Bettendorf, IA); and Craig Cary (Naperville, IL). Not pictured: Daniel Moore (Freeport).

Distinguished Alumni of 2016

On October 20, the Highland Community College Foundation recognized five graduates as Distinguished Alumni at its annual meeting at the Freeport Club, Freeport, IL.

This is the twenty-second year the awards have been presented to individuals who have shown community leadership, made their start at Highland Community College (HCC) and believe in the mission of higher education. Including these new recipients, a total of 118 individuals have been recognized as Distinguished Alumni.

Craig D. Cary, Naperville, IL *Nominated by Marguerite McKinney*

An Aquin High School graduate, Cary attended Highland from 1970 to 1971. At that time, he was uncertain about his life path and educational goals. He found his time at HCC to be a "significant centering moment" of his life.

Cary recently retired after 36 years working for McDonalds USA, where he held corporate director positions with leadership focus in areas such as business operations, government relations, community engagement, and human resources.

Tim Engebretson, Knoxville, IL *Nominated by Joel Zink*

Engebretson attended HCC from 1980 to 1982, before transferring to Western Illinois University to complete his bachelor's degree in secondary education. He has been an educator for over three decades, working as a health and driver education instructor and, for 19 of those years, a football coach in the Monmouth, Illinois area.

His colleagues describe him as a dedicated teacher, coach, and mentor to young people, with a caring attitude and warm sense of humor.

Wendy McGath, Freeport, IL *Nominated by Jae Hezlep*

McGath graduated from Freeport High School in 1982, but did not begin her studies at HCC until 22 years later, in 2004, when she was a recently divorced mother of four children. Throughout her time at HCC, she also worked full-time.

McGath earned her bachelor's degree from Rockford College and has spent her professional career at FHN Family Counseling Center and Norman Sleezer Youth Home. Since 2001, she has also worked part-time at the Family YMCA of Northwest Illinois.

Daniel Moore, Freeport, IL *Nominated by John and Trudy Moore*

Moore is a 2006 graduate of Freeport High School and a 2008 graduate of HCC. He is now working on a degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia College of Missouri.

In September, 2015 was sworn in as a Freeport Police Officer. He is also a member of the US Army Reserve Unit, based in Davenport, Iowa, which means he spends one weekend a month and several weeks in the summer in MP unit training.

Mark Smith, Bettendorf, IA *Nominated by Duane and Ruth Smith*

After graduating from Highland in 1977, Smith earned a Bachelor of Science degree from UW-Stevens Point. He then started a 20-year career with the YMCA, working in camp director positions in four states.

In 2000, Smith established camp programming for children with special needs, which later expanded to a year-round respite center, called "Hand in Hand," for children and young adults with special needs. He and his wife Vinnie are parents of a child with a disability.

A complete listing of previous years' Distinguished Alumni recipients can be found at highland.edu/alumni

Are you a Highland alumnus?
 Register online at www.highland.edu/alumni/register.asp



Monroe

Foundation's "Friend-raising" Benefits HCC and the Foundation

Since last spring, the HCC Foundation has collaborated with other organizations to host three events which have served as outreach for Highland and helped build relationships throughout the district and beyond.

The idea is that relationships must be fostered, connections made, and engagement must occur, before students will come to Highland for their education, and certainly before donors will contribute to support what HCC is doing.

To that end, three "business after hours" events were co-sponsored by the Foundation in the following towns, in conjunction with the local chamber of commerce in each town:

- Galena, IL: May, 2016 (co-sponsored with TCEDA, the Tri-County Economic Development Alliance, and held at DeSoto House)
- Savanna, IL: September, 2016 (co-sponsored with TCEDA and held at Savanna Museum and Cultural Center)
- Monroe, WI: October, 2016 (co-sponsored with Blackhawk Technical College, with whom HCC has a reciprocal educational agreement, and held at Blackhawk Tech)

Foundation staff, as well as Highland administrators and faculty, attended these three events to represent the College and to talk with attendees about all that's going on at HCC. In all cases, HCC reps got some "microphone time" to introduce team members and to talk about the importance of serving all areas of HCC's district (and, in the case of Monroe, the Blackhawk Tech district that has partnered with HCC to serve more students).

There were tables for program displays of interest to each region, delicious refreshments, and sometimes door prizes. At all three events, we conversed with the people we are here to serve and talked about ways we can continue to do that well. From the feedback we received after each event, and the ongoing collaborations that were sparked each evening, it was obvious that Highland Community College means a great deal to the people of northwest Illinois – and southwest Wisconsin as well.



Galena



Savanna



Let Us Thank You Now

New and Improved Heritage Society Benefits

The Foundation has an honorary designation for those who have told us that HCC (through the Foundation) is included in their estate plans. These donors are members of our "Heritage Society," an esteemed group of Highland supporters who are invited to events only for their group, who are kept informed about happenings at the College in their interest areas, and who are thanked now-- while they are still around to say, "You're welcome."

Based on feedback received from our Foundation board members, we decided that Heritage Society had become HCCF's "best kept secret" and needed some publicity and revitalization, as well as expansion of benefits. We needed to do some better stewardship of this group of planful, forward-looking donors. Thus, the following bigger, better list of Heritage Society "perks" was recently adopted by the Development and

Planned Giving Committee of the Foundation Board:

- Invitation to annual Heritage Society President's Reception on HCC campus.
 - Invitations to special gatherings that are only for Heritage Society members.
 - Name on Heritage Society donor recognition display in the HCC Student/Conference Center (2nd floor).
 - Heritage Society etched clear acrylic plaque.
 - Heritage Society membership card, which should be presented in order to receive the following on-campus discounts:
 - Performing Arts: Two tickets to most music or theatre performances (excludes Madrigal and Summerset)
 - Athletics: Free admission to all regular season HCC sporting events (excludes tournaments).
 - Periodic updates on news at HCC that aligns with donor interests.
 - Advance invitations to HCC Foundation events.
 - As much—or as little—recognition and engagement as you want!
- Interested in learning more about how YOU can become part of Heritage Society? Call Kim or Pat at the Foundation, at 815-599-3413, or email us at foundation@highland.edu.
- Arts Café: Buy one complete lunch, get one free (up to \$10 value)
 - J. Rosemary Shockey HCC Bookstore: 20% off your purchase. Textbooks and software excluded.
 - Lifelong Learning: Register for one class, get one free (pay for higher-priced class).

Learn More About the Heritage Society
Go to www.highland.edu/foundation/heritage_society.asp



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THE BUCKET

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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.

Regular Double Play Donors Tell Us Why They Give, and Give Again

We are now in the fourth of five years of a special matching program to benefit our Major Gifts Campaign, courtesy of a generous anonymous donor who pledged \$50,000 per year for five years, provided that the Foundation can raise \$50,000 first.

There are some people who have given to the appeal three times so far, in 2013, 2014, and 2015 – and 2016 isn't over yet! We asked a few of these "repeat givers" just why they like Double Play so much.

Craig Knaack, retired HCC instructor and administrator, put it this way: "I have continued to be a Double Play donor for two reasons. First, the HCC Foundation has been and needs to remain a valuable

partner of Highland Community College. Donating to the HCC Foundation supports the students and activities of the College, and that strengthens educational options in northwestern Illinois. Second.... The matching part of this donation makes it double in value and thus, increases the resources available for scholarships and other student assistance."

Mechanical engineer and alumnus Bill Hartman of Waterloo, Iowa echoes this sentiment, saying, "The Double Play is an outstanding opportunity to make your donation dollars go a lot farther. I have chosen to donate to Highland Community College because of the opportunities that opened up for me by attending....The opportunity to attend a great school like

Highland needs to be preserved for others, and that is why I participate in Double Play."

As we go to press, donations to Double Play have exceeded the \$35,000 mark. We are optimistic about reaching our \$50,000 goal for calendar year 2016. To donate to Double Play, you can mail in a donation using the special envelope enclosed in this newsletter, or you can give online using a credit card at highland.thankyou4caring.org.

EVERY donation helps, no matter the size, and EVERY donation gets matched. As Mr. Knaack summed it up, "Even a conservative donor can make a big difference in a program like this!"