

SUNY Cobleskill

MAGAZINE

Summer 2017 | Published for Friends, Family and Alumni

To Grow
To Sustain
To Renew



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Last fall I had the pleasure of visiting John Bowne High School in Queens, where our alumnus, Steven Perry, has been guiding the award-winning Agricultural Program for more than two decades. In the school's land laboratory, in the classrooms, and in the students' words, I heard and saw something very familiar: the drive to push the limits of agriculture — and to make the world a better place in the process.

In this magazine you will read more about the John Bowne Aggies and their paths to and through SUNY Cobleskill. You will read about the vital work of our Early Childhood Education and Applied Psychology programs, which prepare graduates to cultivate the healthy, happy children and families that form the heart of any community. You will read

about clean energy innovation, waste-reduction initiatives, a revolutionary virtual marketplace for the state's small businesses, and so much more.

Each story illustrates the spirit of growth, sustainability, and renewal that has guided SUNY Cobleskill from its founding. Like John Bowne students cultivating a small plot of land before passing it to the next class, our students, faculty, and staff know that it takes respect, innovation, and care to preserve what we have today for those who come tomorrow. That spirit touches every corner of campus and every academic pursuit.

Every day at SUNY Cobleskill is a new challenge, a new lesson, and a new opportunity. It is my pleasure to guide this institution as it inspires its students to grow, to sustain, and to renew themselves, their communities, and the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marion A. Terenzio, PhD".

Marion A. Terenzio, PhD
SUNY Cobleskill President

REAL LIFE. REAL LEARNING.

SUNY Cobleskill Magazine

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COVER

To Grow, To Sustain, To Renew: Amber Fallar '17 reads with a child at the Effie Bennett-Powe Child Development Center at SUNY Cobleskill

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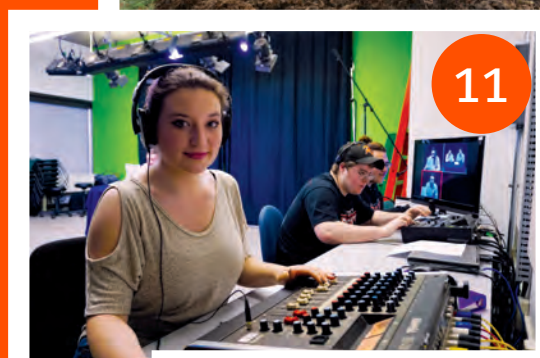
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TO GROW TO SUSTAIN TO RENEW



Jessica McLaughlin '19
reads with children at the
Effie Bennett-Powe Child
Development Center
at SUNY Cobleskill

When SUNY Cobleskill opened its doors 100 years ago, two of its earliest aims were to train young people in agriculture and education. Many things have changed — the buildings, the technology, the words we use to describe what we do — but our core values have not. Our vision has not.

If you walk around campus today, you may find students and professors exploring technology that turns waste into clean energy. You may see an aspiring teacher putting theory into practice in the on-campus childcare center. You may meet students analyzing water samples to track the health of our region's rivers and streams.

They are all working and studying to build their own futures. But they are also building a future for us all. They are learning to grow — not just plants and livestock, but their own skills and character. They are learning to sustain what we have today so that it will not be gone tomorrow. And they are learning to renew — to turn problems into solutions and give fresh life to the world around them.

This has always been the work of SUNY Cobleskill: to grow, to sustain, and to renew. As the world faces mounting environmental and social challenges, our students, faculty, and staff understand this more than ever — and they rise to the challenge.

CHILDREN LEAD THE WAY

SUNY COBLESKILL'S EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT FOCUSES ON THE GROWTH AT THE HEART OF EVERY COMMUNITY — HUMAN GROWTH

A circle of 12 children, all 3 or 4 years old, sat on a colorful rug in SUNY Cobleskill's Effie Bennett-Powe Child Development Center tapping rulers to a simple song. Their teachers, most of them Early Childhood Education students, tapped along. Behind a wall of one-way glass, a Childhood Growth and Development class looked on and took notes.

"We're looking for development skills — social, emotional, cognitive, gross motor, fine motor," said freshman Early Childhood Education major Jessica Lewry. "They're learning comprehension skills. They know when to tap, they know when to stop.

It seems easy to us, but it's not for them. It takes a lot of self-regulation."

These are critical years in the growth of children. They form the foundation of their development into healthy, happy adults. Infant and early childhood mental health, focusing on pre-natal to age 5, is beginning to get more attention as a field of study.

This year, SUNY Cobleskill has begun laying the groundwork for a new Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health concentration within its Early Childhood Education program. It will start with a new 300-level

course next year that will align with the New York State Association for Infant Mental Health's credentialing system.

"This is a growing field and there's going to be more and more jobs — as home visitors, as specialists in early childhood mental health who work with pediatricians, who advise judges in family court," said Gail Wentworth, Chair of the Early Childhood and Psychology department and Director of the Effie Bennett-Powe Child Development Center. "It recognizes the need for healthy children and families so that they're ready to learn in kindergarten and they eventually become productive citizens."

As with all the courses in Early Childhood and Psychology, the new course will prepare students with plenty of hands-on learning, from the on-campus Child Development Center to trips around the world.

STUDYING RESILIENCE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SUNY Cobleskill senior Karis Ahrens met a young woman named Lovely while she was studying resilience in the Dominican Republic with Professor Amy Corbett's Applied Psychology class. They were at a landfill where Lovely and others worked for just

over a dollar a day. As Ahrens talked with Lovely and watched her work, she set her heart on a career helping children and families overcome adversity.

Throughout the two-week trip, Ahrens and other students visited local organizations that work with children, abused women, and other at-risk groups to study how people succeed despite adverse circumstances.

"They're going to be doing that exact same work within their own professions," Corbett said. "So that international program is really set up to show them the dynamic cycle that exists in every population. The psychology is the same, the theory is the same everywhere."

At home, Ahrens interns with Catholic Charities in Cobleskill, working with victims of domestic violence and others in need. She came to SUNY Cobleskill to earn an associate degree in Child and Family Services, then stayed to complete a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood – Birth to Age 5. Her experiences at Catholic Charities, then in the Dominican Republic, have led her to pursue a career working with victims of domestic violence.

"I know in my heart I want to work with children and families," Ahrens said. "And I hope to be able to do it in nonprofit organizations all around the world."





Like the Early Childhood Education program, Applied Psychology has been growing. New faculty members will begin expanding the program's health psychology and community psychology focuses in the coming years.

"Community psychology is a young but very growing area in psychology," Corbett said. "This will help to really enrich our two tracks and help us grow our program."

SUSTAINABILITY BEGINS WITH EDUCATION

In the coming years, SUNY Cobleskill will join a handful of other SUNY campuses, SUNY Global Affairs, and other partners to build a sustainable village and learning community in Haiti. As part of that initiative, Gail Wentworth will help the program's Haitian partners develop programs for early childhood development.

"My job would really be like a consultant to the people there," Wentworth said. "So when I go away, it's sustainable."

The program, with initial funding from the Kellogg Foundation, seeks to build a sustainable community — from education to food and energy production — on a 30-acre parcel of land near the ocean. SUNY Cobleskill and its students will play a substantial role thanks to the College's focus on agriculture, education, and applied learning.

For Wentworth, there is no such thing as a sustainable community without healthy children.

"Children who are literate, mentally stable, and safe are capable of learning and thriving and being productive citizens of the world," she said. "Early childhood education lays the foundation for a healthy person who can be a productive citizen, which sustains the population."

A NEW APPROACH TO HIGH SCHOOL

A diploma is no longer the sole outcome of a high school education at East Syracuse Minoa Central High School. Under the leadership of Executive Principal and SUNY Cobleskill alumnus Grenardo Avellino '83, the school focuses instead on "21st century learning skills" — critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication — as well as college and career pathways. Students can work toward certification in fields like business administration and management, automotive, carpentry, and more.

Avellino, a graduate of SUNY Cobleskill's Early Childhood Education program, has been the school's Executive Principal for five years. Throughout all of the innovation at ESM Central, he still relies on the fundamentals he learned in college.

"Cobleskill helped me develop confidence," he said. "It taught me how important it is to plan healthy lessons rooted in standards that are developed to meet the learning styles and challenges our students bring to school every day."

For Avellino, community, family, and education are tightly connected. Among other efforts, the school has established a Food and Clothing Pantry for its community. A healthy family supports a successful student. A successful student, in turn, helps build a stronger community.

"Our graduates must be prepared to excel in a complex, interconnected, changing world," Avellino said. "To do that, schools and communities must be synchronous."

John Bowne High School alumnae Samantha Orie '18, left, and Kiara Perkins '18 at SUNY Cobleskill



CULTIVATING AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE IN QUEENS

JOHN BOWNE HIGH SCHOOL'S AGGIES TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT SUNY COBLESKILL

SUNY Cobleskill junior Samantha Orie grew up on a small poultry farm on the island of Trinidad. When she arrived in New York City, she thought she would have to set aside that passion. Then she found the Agriculture Program at John Bowne High School in Queens.

"I was always an agriculturist at heart," she said. "Going to John Bowne and joining the ag program there was like being right at home. Everything just fell back into place."

The Agriculture Program, founded as an annex to Newtown High School in 1917 nearly 50 years before John Bowne was built, is celebrating its centennial this year. It has about 600 students today, twice what it had when Assistant Principal Steven Perry, a 1979 SUNY Cobleskill graduate, arrived as a teacher 34 years ago. The program was recently profiled in the NPR feature "The Next Generation of Farmers is Being Trained in New York City High Schools".

Like Orie, SUNY Cobleskill junior Kiara Perkins saw John Bowne as a rare opportunity to develop the passion for agriculture she discovered at the Queens

County Farm as a child. Soon to graduate with her bachelor's degree in Animal Science, she is confident in her future in the field of dairy genetics.

Their path is familiar to Perry, who has seen countless Aggies succeed at SUNY Cobleskill. There are currently more than 30 John Bowne alumni on campus, thanks in part to articulation agreements in Plant Science and Animal Science.

"When I take the kids to visit the College, they end up attending there," Perry said. "And I do it with a good heart, because I know that it's a good place for our kids. It's a perfect match."

Some of those students have come back to John Bowne as teachers, and Perry hopes to see more take that route. Orie may be one of them. While she is exploring a career in canine training, she is also considering teaching agriculture at John Bowne.

"I believe that teaching is the best way to pass what I've learned on to the next generation," she said, "to give them what I got from John Bowne, and to help push it forward."

PROTECTING OUR WATER WITH BETTER DATA

NEW LONG-TERM STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON MOHAWK RIVER WATER QUALITY

Above: Dan Sweeney '17 measures pH on the banks of the Mohawk River last May near Frankfort Harbor, New York. Below: Harleigh Farr, a senior in the Madison-Oneida BOCES program, helps collect water samples from the Mohawk River.

At the beginning of the third year of a long-term study of the Mohawk River's water quality by SUNY Cobleskill and environmental watchdog Riverkeeper, the results of the previous year's efforts made headlines across the region: "Report finds city has cleaner area of Mohawk River", "Report: Pollutants in the Wallkill River exceed safe levels", "The Mohawk is dirty. Let's clean it up".

With a \$20,000 grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program awarded to SUNY Cobleskill early this year, the program will continue to gather data to help the public make better decisions regarding the use and protection of the river.

"Each year we will learn more and engage more people in the restoration of the Mohawk," said Dan Shapley, Water Quality Program Director for Riverkeeper. "The health of the Mohawk matters to

those who live along it, and to those downstream in the Hudson — and to the vast array of life that relies on the river."

On May 22, Professors Neil Law and Barbara Brabetz, SUNY Cobleskill students, and Riverkeeper began a series of "sampling blitzes" that will continue through October. In each one-day blitz, the team travels the entire 140-mile length of the Mohawk River, collecting water samples from more than 40 sites to bring back to SUNY Cobleskill for analysis.

This year's grant includes funding for one SUNY Cobleskill student to be employed full-time through the summer as well as two or three part-time students to assist with sampling and laboratory analysis. In

addition to SUNY Cobleskill interns, students from Middleburgh High School and the Madison-Oneida BOCES New Visions Program in Utica have assisted in the sampling runs.



"This work exemplifies SUNY Cobleskill's commitment to hands-on, real-life learning," said Neil Law, Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences & Mathematics at SUNY Cobleskill. "Our students gain experience collecting and processing samples, then reading and interpreting the data. The data then becomes a tool that empowers the public and municipalities to make better decisions regarding the health of the river and regarding its use, such as recreation."

By studying the levels of enterococcus contamination, the project aims to determine whether the water in the river is suitable for recreation, pinpoint pollution hot spots, and examine long-term trends. The data is being made available to the public, particularly to municipalities for use in infrastructure planning.

The project's work over the past two years has helped shed light on the effects of a series of large sewage spills in the city of Amsterdam as well as the overall causes and effects of pollution in the river. Sometimes those results were surprisingly good, challenging popular perceptions of the river as dirty. Other times, they highlighted where more work is needed.

The most recent findings were presented by SUNY Cobleskill Associate Professor of Biology & Chemistry Barbara Brabetz at the Mohawk Watershed Symposium on March 17 at Union College. That report led to a call in *The Daily Gazette* of Schenectady for public action on clean water initiatives.

"Our findings over the last two seasons have been somewhat surprising," Brabetz said. "Certain sites in decaying industrial areas along the Mohawk River and its tributaries look neglected, with litter along the shore, but we may often find that fecal contamination levels for recreational water use are acceptable. Alternatively, wooded remote sites appear pristine, however a few may be chronically contaminated. The simple lesson is that assumptions of water quality and the river's health are not always correct."

Thanks to the work of SUNY Cobleskill and Riverkeeper, decision-makers no longer need to rely on assumptions.

REVOLUTIONIZING THE WAY NEW YORK DOES BUSINESS

SUNY COBLESKILL PARTNERS WITH AXI TO CONNECT WHOLESALE BUYERS AND SELLERS IN A SINGLE VIRTUAL MARKETPLACE

New York has plenty of large institutions like the State University of New York system looking to buy things in bulk. It also has plenty of businesses of all sizes looking to sell products. What it does not have is an easy way to connect the two.

That is where AXI comes in. The START-UP NY company, headquartered at SUNY Cobleskill and working in close collaboration with faculty and students, is pioneering a potentially revolutionary virtual marketplace to facilitate, track, and manage these kinds of transactions.

The company is starting by connecting all of SUNY's auxiliary services with businesses in the state that are owned by women and minorities. New York State law requires a certain amount of purchases to come from those companies, but there is currently no easy way to find them or track those efforts.

"We're building a common marketplace where New York's institutions can broadcast their demand to eligible businesses and allow for more local procurement," said Max Mangin, CEO of AXI. "And crucially, we're doing it in a regulatory-compliant way."

The company has already hired four SUNY Cobleskill student interns to handle operations like customer service, outreach to businesses, and processing the complex regulatory paperwork that would otherwise burden a small-business owner.

AXI expects to be out of the pilot phase by late summer. In the long run, its platform could become a single, searchable database of New York businesses. When it comes to market access, that could help put a start-up dairy farm on a level playing field with a large corporation.



TURNING TRASH INTO CLEAN POWER

TWO SUNY COBLESKILL PROFESSORS TAKE
GASIFICATION TECHNOLOGY TO NEW HEIGHTS

SUNY Cobleskill professors Paul Amodeo and David Waage see mountains of trash in a landfill the way a miner might see a rich vein of coal: untapped fuel. All it needs is a touch of modern alchemy.

The gasifier Waage and Amodeo have built at SUNY Cobleskill could well provide that alchemy, turning most combustible waste into clean fuel to power a diesel generator. It is not magic, of course. Gasification itself is not a new technology, but the SUNY Cobleskill professors have refined it to new levels of efficiency.

"If you look at a log in a campfire, you'll see a little region between the log and the flame that's invisible — that's the gasification zone," said Waage, a Visiting Professor and Principal Engineer on the project. "What we do is prevent the flame from happening and collect the gas right from that zone."

Thanks to a series of technical innovations, the gasifier developed by Waage and Amodeo is cleaner, more efficient, and more convenient than its predecessors. It takes just about any combustible material and produces fuel that is between two and five times richer in BTU (British thermal unit) value than conventional synthetic gas. When burned, the fuel is "orders of magnitude" cleaner than pure diesel. It also produces ash, which can be used in building materials like cement.

The machine they built at SUNY Cobleskill can churn out 60 kilowatts of power a day on two tons of trash, enough to power about 50 standard American homes.

"You can take a whole bag of garbage and drop it into this machine and walk away," said Amodeo, an Information Technology Professor and Chief Investigator on the project. Unlike with earlier versions of gasifiers and other recycling processes, the waste requires no pre-treatment. What does not burn comes out in the ash.

The gasifier project got its start at SUNY Cobleskill with a grant from the Department of Defense in 2008 to power U.S. military bases abroad while simultaneously reducing or eliminating waste. While Waage and Amodeo are still pursuing military applications, they have also expanded into domestic civilian use.

They are currently in talks with a regional landfill to locate a gasifier on site. The recycling center there already draws much of its power from a solar array. The gasifier would close the gap.

"We would like to refine the process to the point that we don't just prevent material from going into the landfills, but maybe mine material from the landfills," Amodeo said. "You can take the big mountains that they're making and start reversing the process."

CLOSING THE ENERGY LOOP



In his first year at SUNY Cobleskill, Casey Timmins started an ambitious project with one question: Why aren't we composting?

SUNY Cobleskill has all the usual waste of a college campus on one side; on the other, it has gardens, greenhouses, and the campus farm. He wanted to close the energy loop.

"Composting wasn't here, so I had to make sure it was," he said. "I've been playing in the soil since I can remember. Now, I can play in it and make a difference."

The second-year Sustainable Crop Production student and other members of the Plant and Sustainability Club founded Feed the Worms in 2015 to turn food waste from residence halls and dining halls into compost. In their first year, they collected 2,000 pounds of waste from dining halls alone. In the next phase, collecting post-consumer waste from students, Timmins expects to collect 250 pounds a day.

That means the project will need to expand its capacity. Next year, Timmins will design and build a "wind row" system with aerated mounds as part of a class project.

"That will allow us to handle a lot greater tonnage," he said. "The goal is for this to be sustained after I'm gone."

The project has been embraced by faculty from the start. Associate Professor Bob Rynk contributes his composting expertise, Assistant Professor Andrew Gascho-Landis assists with hiring work-study students, and Visiting Instructor Adam Wild lends a hand wherever he can.

"The best feature of the Feed the Worms project is that it is entirely student-driven," Rynk said. "Students have been the motivation, the labor, the management, and the conscience for the project. They are working to bring food from the farm and return food waste back to the farm. They understand that 'farm-to-table' is not a line. It's a circle."

LIFESTYLE FARMING CONFERENCE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

SUNY Cobleskill's first-ever Lifestyle Farming Conference in April drew 129 participants, twice the projected turnout, from as far as Buffalo, Connecticut, and Long Island to improve their skills and explore more than a dozen topics in home-based farming.

A number of alumni took part in the accompanying equipment and supplies exposition, including Ryan Hulbert with Betterbee, Ken Lango with Original Feeds, Jess Goblet with Hessian Hill Farm, and Kelley Farm & Garden in Cobleskill.

The next Lifestyle Farming Conference is scheduled for **November 11** with season-appropriate courses in cheeses, breads, ciders, and food preservation.

Learn more at www.cobleskill.edu/lifestylefarming.

INTRODUCING THE INSTITUTE FOR RURAL VITALITY

SUNY Cobleskill is launching a new era of regional cooperation and applied learning through the Institute for Rural Vitality at SUNY Cobleskill. The Institute engages the College's resources in collaboration with regional partners to enhance community and economic vitality throughout rural New York. At the same time, it creates boundless new immersive learning opportunities for SUNY Cobleskill students.

Follow the Institute's transformative work at www.cobleskill.edu/institute.



SCHMERZLER '13 SETS SAIL WITH AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Alumnus Spencer Schmerzler's job is easy to envy. He travels from country to country aboard a Holland America Line cruise ship doing what he loves every day: cooking.

Schmerzler graduated from SUNY Cobleskill in 2013 with an associate degree in Culinary Arts and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He boarded the MS Westerdam as an America's Test Kitchen Host in February 2017.

Life aboard the ship is demanding but rewarding, and always an adventure. Schmerzler is up before dawn, spending hours preparing ingredients and rehearsing for each day's show in front of a live audience. In the evening, he takes in shipboard entertainment.

At SUNY Cobleskill, Schmerzler immersed himself in classes, labs, and his work as a Resident Assistant. Those experiences, combined with the College's hands-on style of education, helped launch him on his career path.

"I left SUNY Cobleskill confident that I could make it in the real world," he said. "Those immersive experiences taught me how the working world works and that I wanted to keep doing what I loved most: working with food and interacting with people."

Schmerzler has fully embraced Holland America's slogan, "Savor the Journey." So far, he has been to Mexico and Hawaii. Up next: the Caribbean, Italy, Greece, Croatia, and so much more.



SUNY COBLESKILL LEADS WITH APPLIED LEARNING REQUIREMENT

SUNY Cobleskill is elevating its role as a leader in hands-on education with a new applied learning requirement taking effect in the fall of 2017. This requirement, the first of its kind in the SUNY system, guarantees that every SUNY Cobleskill student will graduate with practical experience.

The decision positioned SUNY Cobleskill as a destination for students and a model for other institutions, leading SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher to praise the College at a New York State Assembly Higher Education Committee hearing on college affordability.

"As SUNY remains on track to ensuring that every SUNY student has an opportunity to engage in applied learning, SUNY Cobleskill is to be commended for taking its program offerings a step further," Zimpher said at the time of the announcement. "Congratulations to President Terenzio and the faculty who led this important charge to require an applied learning experience for every student. With this decision, SUNY Cobleskill becomes a leader not only within SUNY but nationally, ensuring its students are among the most qualified for jobs following graduation."



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017!

Students of the Class of 2017 received their degrees at SUNY Cobleskill's 99th Commencement on May 13 along with keynote addresses from Former U.S. Congressman Christopher P. Gibson and renowned veterinary pathologist Dr. Judith A. St. Leger. Both were presented with honorary doctorates from the State University of New York during the ceremony.

HONORING EXCELLENCE

MEET THE 2017 WINNERS OF THE SUNY COBLESKILL OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS, DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI, AND OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

SUNY Cobleskill is proud to honor some of its most exceptional luminaries this Homecoming and Family Weekend as the Alumni Association recognizes three alumni and one student for their outstanding personal, professional, and academic achievements. The winners will be invited to campus to receive their awards at the Alumni Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions Dinner on October 14. Read more about each of the recipients and their accomplishments at www.cobleskill.edu/alumniawards.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS: CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT '73

Christopher Knight earned an associate degree in Science Laboratory Technology from SUNY Cobleskill in 1973 before continuing to Cornell University and eventually earning a Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition from Purdue University. He currently advises on agriculture-based innovation and entrepreneurship at The Yield Lab.

The Outstanding Alumni awards recognize remarkable professional achievement, community involvement, and service to SUNY Cobleskill.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES: DONALD HUMPHREYS '66

Donald Humphreys graduated from SUNY Cobleskill in 1966 with an associate degree in Animal Husbandry. He returned to the family farm, eventually becoming Vice President of the multi-million-dollar, 2,500-acre enterprise. He has served as the President of the Oneida County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and currently serves on the board of the Upstate Growers and Packers Association.

The Distinguished Alumni award recognizes outstanding professional achievement, expertise

in a field of study, community involvement and engagement with SUNY Cobleskill. The awardee must have graduated at least 10 years ago.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES AND BUSINESS: VICTORIA GERLACH KLEINBERGER '07

Victoria Gerlach Kleinberger graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with her associate degree in Early Childhood Education in 2007, then earned a bachelor's degree and finally a master's degree from the College of St. Rose. She currently works as a special education teacher in the Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District, where she also coaches varsity track and field, modified girls' soccer, and the Odyssey of the Mind academic team.

The Distinguished Alumni award recognizes outstanding professional achievement, expertise in a field of study, community involvement and engagement with SUNY Cobleskill. The awardee must have graduated at least 10 years ago.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT: DANIEL DZEN '17

Daniel Dzen graduated with a Bachelor of Technology in Agricultural Business Management in 2017. He served as president of the Agricultural Business Club and, in his spare time, founded a successful gourmet popcorn business. It is now the largest popcorn growing and processing operation in Connecticut and among the top three in New England.

The Outstanding Student award goes to a student who shows initiative in academic and campus achievements, has had a positive effect on the College, and has a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

WESTERN EQUESTRIAN TEAM RIDES INTO COLLEGE HISTORY



The Western Equestrian Team, left to right: Emily McLaughlin, Ashlynn Ratner, Wyatt Morley, Jessica Bond (on horse), Ashley Foland, Anna Kern, Bridget Stonemetz, Karley Brandimarte, Abbey Wiand, John Schatz, Morgan O'Sullivan, Coach Leah Digioia (on horse), Chloe Bevins, CJ Peterson, Erin Hopmans, and Amanda Pelosi.

Hard work, expert coaching, and raw talent have led the SUNY Cobleskill Western Equestrian team to a series of historic accomplishments this past academic year, including earning the distinction of Champion High Point Team for their region.

Under the leadership of Western Equestrian Coach Leah Digioia, team members practiced five to six days a week, sometimes staying in the saddle as late as 10 p.m. They topped Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone 2 Region 3 in a series of competitions to achieve the College's first-ever regional championship in February.

In addition to the team's collective accomplishments, junior Morgan O'Sullivan earned the title of High Point Rider for the region, qualifying for the IHSA National Individual Championship in Lexington, Kentucky in May. She is the first junior and the second-ever SUNY Cobleskill student to achieve this rank — the first being Digioia in her senior year at SUNY Cobleskill.

People were not the only winners. Digioia's horse, Spot, whom she leases to SUNY Cobleskill, was named Champion Horse at the IHSA Western Semi-Finals in March. Under the care of SUNY Cobleskill students, Spot helped many riders qualify for nationals and earn championships at the Semi-Finals before taking home a blue ribbon himself.

FIFTEEN HANDS ABOVE THE GROUND

Read a feature profile of Western Equestrian Coach Leah Digioia by Communications in Technology student Eveline Levin at www.cobleskill.edu/15hands



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME TO WELCOME FOUR NEW INDUCTEES

Four more Fighting Tigers will enter the ranks of the all-time best as the SUNY Cobleskill Department of Sport & Exercise inducts the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017 during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Read more about all of the inductees and their accomplishments at www.cobleskill.edu/halloffame.

CARLOS DOLMO '97

Men's Wrestling, Baseball, Cross Country

Carlos Dolmo was a high-achieving triple threat, distinguishing himself on the wrestling mat, the baseball diamond, and the cross country course. As a wrestler, he was a two-time Mountain Valley Conference Champion and a two-time NJCAA All-Region III Team selection, which earned him a pair of NJCAA National Championship appearances and All-American honors in 1997.

MARY HAMM

Head Coach, Women's Soccer, Softball, Basketball

Chief among many accomplishments, Hamm led the Fighting Tigers women's soccer team during a dominant two-decade run. She came to SUNY Cobleskill in 1984 and began a 25-year career with the Fighting Tigers. She served as the head women's soccer and softball coach after a brief stint as the women's basketball co-coach. Under her direction, the Fighting Tigers women's soccer team captured Mountain Valley Conference Championships in 1994, 1995 and 1998. Over the course of 19 seasons, the team posted an impressive 175-96-17 record.

ROBERT JONTOS

Technical Assistant, Coach, Instructor

Robert Jontos was the Fighting Tigers' indispensable Renaissance man for more than three decades. From 1973 until 2004, he served the Department of Physical Education and Intercollegiate Athletics in a wide variety of roles including head lacrosse coach and head women's tennis coach. As a founding member of the Valley Soccer Club and the Schoharie County Youth Tennis Program, he played a major role in the development of the local sports culture.

MARION "BRIED" RICHARDS '00

Women's Volleyball

In 1998, Marion Richards established her legacy in Fighting Tiger women's volleyball as the only player in the history of the program to earn First Team NJCAA All-American honors. She also earned First Team All-NJCAA Region III Team and First Team All-Mountain Valley Conference Team honors in 1998.



BACK IN THE GAME AFTER LEUKEMIA BATTLE

Anthony Yevoli was 19 years old and looking forward to a breakout lacrosse season at SUNY Cobleskill when he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in 2015. When his coaches and teammates visited him in the hospital over the following five months, he made one promise over and over: that he would beat the cancer and return to the field.

He kept his promise. He was declared cancer-free in May 2016 and played the season-opener of the 2017 season against Lyndon State College this February. The Fighting Tigers won, with Yevoli scoring two goals.

"I feel like I'm pretty lucky. I'm blessed," he said shortly after his recovery. "And I can only give back now, because I feel that's the responsible thing to do. You have to make the most of second chances when you get them."

His persistent positivity and leadership earned Yevoli the North Eastern Athletic Conference Inspirational Award for 2015-16 and a feature on WRGB Sports' "Beyond the Games" segment. He has also been named 2017 "Boy of the Year" by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Upstate NY/Vermont. He plans to graduate in May and pursue a bachelor degree at SUNY Oneonta.

Throughout, Yevoli was grateful to his teammates and the entire Fighting Tiger Athletics program. "Their support gave me the courage to battle to get well and the drive to play again," he said.



NEW BASEBALL COACH BUILDING 'HIGH-OCTANE' TEAM FOR 2018

Since Robert Fisk came to SUNY Cobleskill early this year as the new Head Baseball Coach, he has been hard at work building the team that will bring the Fighting Tigers back to intercollegiate baseball in spring 2018 as a member of the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC).

Fisk comes to SUNY Cobleskill from Philadelphia University, where he served as pitching coach. He was drawn to SUNY Cobleskill by the opportunity to build a team from the ground up, as well as the "marriage between athletics and academics" he saw on campus. Over the past several months, he has been recruiting athletes that can play his "high-octane" style of baseball — but it is not just about what happens on the field.

"A lot of what I talk about is not just the baseball side of things — it's athletics, academics, and community," he said. "We're looking at community outreach programs, finding ways that we can help out. Getting the community excited about the baseball program is the brand I want to build."

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY WINS RECORD-SETTING CHAMPIONSHIP

The Fighting Tigers women's cross country team made North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) history in October with its eighth consecutive conference championship, the longest championship run the conference has ever seen.

"Winning conference titles defines you as a program and says that you are doing things the right way," said Head Coach Mitchell Tomaszewicz. "I am very proud of the young women in our program."

The team also put four Fighting Tiger runners on the All-NEAC First Team: freshman Emma Bayuk, senior Taylor Tommell, sophomore Quinn Porter, and junior AnnaClaire Piersiak.



The SUNY Cobleskill women's cross country team, left to right: Mary Greagan, Olivia Madison, Taylor Tommell, AnnaClaire Piersiak, Alyssa Riewerts, Emma Bayuk, Abigail O'Brein, Quinn Porter

In her four years at SUNY Cobleskill, Tommell has left an impressive legacy. Among numerous awards and trophies, she was the first runner in program history to win the NEAC Women's Cross Country Individual Championship in 2016.

Tommell was named the 2016 Fred Bennett Outstanding Female Athlete at SUNY Cobleskill as well as a 2015-16 SUNY Scholar Athlete. She was the first Fighting Tiger runner to be named both NEAC Rookie of the Year and Runner of the Year during her athletic career.

GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS

Charitable endowments make a lasting difference in the lives of our students. With self-sustaining annual payments, your endowment can help ensure that the things you love most about SUNY Cobleskill will thrive long into the future.

Best of all, you can make it a team effort. With 10 people making annual payments of \$200, you can fully fund an endowment in five years. You can also establish an endowment with a single \$10,000 contribution.

You can tailor your endowment to one of the following areas:

Scholarships. Fund students directly, like the new **Student Veterans Association Scholarship Endowment** does.

Student Research. Follow the example of the **John and Marsha Foster Student Research Endowment** to keep our students learning real-world research skills.

Student Travel. The **Kevin Berner Student Academic Travel Endowment** helps our students see the world.

Academic Equipment. The new **Dr. Stephen Mackenzie Canine Equipment Endowment** is a group effort that will help our Canine students learn and train with the latest equipment in the field.

Equipment endowments are particularly important for keeping SUNY Cobleskill students on the leading edge of innovation. They also multiply your contribution. One piece of learning equipment will benefit dozens of students several times a week for years to come.

With payroll deduction, group endowments, and online giving, making your mark is easy. To learn more and see a complete list of endowments, visit www.cobleskill.edu/give or call 518.255.5524.



A ROUND OF GOLF IN HONOR OF MARK PRINTSKY '79

Honor the legacy of SUNY Cobleskill alumnus Mark Printskey while supporting the College's Turfgrass Management students at the 4th Annual Mark D. Printskey Golf Tournament on Saturday, July 15 at McGregor Links in Wilton, New York.

Printskey was a highly respected Certified Golf Course Superintendent who managed courses around the country, including more than 25 years as Superintendent at McGregor Links.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Mark D. Printskey Endowment, which provides scholarships for SUNY Cobleskill Turfgrass Management sophomores, juniors, and seniors in good academic standing who demonstrate work ethic and commitment to the industry.

"The scholarship, more than any monument, is going to last in that more people will be able to do what they love," said Mary Beth (LaBelle) Printskey, who founded the scholarship in honor of her late husband. "I think Mark would just love the idea of giving back and paying it forward. He got so much out of SUNY Cobleskill."

For more information, contact the McGregor Pro Shop at 518.584.6664.

A FRIEND'S LEGACY LIVES ON



Doug Hammond '88

Jeremy Ayres '89 touched a lot of lives. Though he was an Agricultural Engineering student, he made friends all across the SUNY Cobleskill campus, a habit that his good friend Doug Hammond '88 remembers fondly.

Hammond, Professor and Chair of the Agricultural Engineering Department, is now in his twenty-first year with SUNY Cobleskill. Throughout his career he has made a point of giving back to his alma mater, generously donating to a variety of scholarships, endowments, and fundraisers.

When Ayres passed away, Hammond turned that charitable impulse toward honoring his life and carrying on the values he exemplified. He founded the Jeremy Ayres Scholarship Endowment with a \$10,000 donation and gathered mutual friends to contribute.

"We wanted to recognize him for who he was and keep his legacy alive and hopefully allow others in our industry to get the opportunities that we had," Hammond said. "He influenced a lot of people and we're trying to put together a scholarship that represents that."

The scholarship will benefit incoming or returning students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 who demonstrate community service, since Ayres was a volunteer firefighter. Participation in Future Farmers of America, Skills USA, or 4H is required. Preference will go to Agricultural Engineering AAS, Fisheries and Wildlife Technology AAS, and Culinary Arts AAS majors.

Hammond and others are now working to get more people involved with the endowment, from family members to the many organizations and businesses Ayres touched throughout his life, to "be stewards of the scholarship."

In all of his efforts — as a student, a father, a power machinery professional, a volunteer firefighter — Ayres made a mark on those around him. Now his friends are making sure he continues to make a difference for many years to come.

To learn more about establishing an endowment, contact Lois Goblet, Chief Advancement Officer, at gobletle@cobleskill.edu or 518.255.5524.



SIP AND REMINISCE AT ALUMNI WINE TASTING

Join the SUNY Cobleskill Alumni Association for a wine tasting on August 20, 1-4 p.m. at Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards in Hector, New York. For more information and other upcoming alumni events visit blog.cobleskill.edu/alumni.

COME VISIT. WE'LL COOK.

Come home to SUNY Cobleskill for Homecoming and Family Weekend on October 13 and 14 and begin your celebration with the Culinary Extravaganza, our annual farm-to-table feast. Catch up with old friends while some of the region's top culinary talents, including many of our Culinary Arts students, serve fine cuisine made with fresh, local ingredients.

Last year, the College community raised enough funds at the Culinary Extravaganza to purchase a professional brewing system for our new Fermentation Science and Applied Fermentation programs as well as a large-batch freezer that empowers Culinary Arts and Dairy Science students to transform campus-produced milk into ice cream, gelato, and sorbet. The freezer will make its debut at this year's Extravaganza as Culinary Arts students serve fresh, campus-made ice cream.

We are proud to announce Kathleen King '79, founder and owner of Tate's Bake Shop in Southampton, New York as honorary event chair. The Extravaganza is one of two major annual fundraisers for the College Foundation, with proceeds benefitting academic programming and scholarships. Sponsorship opportunities are available.



The event is scheduled for Friday, October 13 at 6 p.m. in the Bouck Hall Ballroom.

Tickets are \$75 per person. The evening will include appetizers, entrees, and desserts, as well as wine and beer tastings. Read more about the featured chefs at www.cobleskill.edu/yum.

For more information or to reserve your ticket, call the College Foundation at 518.255.5524.