

BROOME

SUNY Broome Alumni Magazine • Spring 2015

INSPIRATION

The many faces of art at SUNY Broome

Tess Z...



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *Alumni Affairs*

SUNY Broome has such a respected reputation in the health sciences, STEM and liberal arts fields that we often forget that the visual and performing arts have played an integral part in the diversity and strength of the College and its students. This issue of

BROOME puts the focus on these disciplines and reminds us of the school's rich history of theater, music, visual arts and writing.

We also remember a well-loved and respected professor, Angelo Zuccolo, whose memory helps frame the cover story. His image, painted by SUNY Broome student Tess Zizak (ARTS '15), graces our cover as a reminder of his influence on so many students and illustrates the current outstanding talents housed at this institution. I hope you enjoy the artistic perspective of this issue.

As always, please stay in touch and share your memories of your time at the College. Keep your contact information, including email, up-to-date so that you can stay current with all that is happening on this ever-changing campus and receive invitations to alumni events.

Please visit the College's newly designed website at www.sunybroome.edu to see the great things happening here on campus. From the homepage, you can click on the Alumni and Friends tab to see a digital copy of the magazine and information on upcoming events. Also, like us on Facebook at SUNY Broome Alumni.

Natalie M. Thompson
Director, SUNY Broome Alumni Affairs



To update your contact information, email alumni@sunybroome.edu or call (607) 778-5477

For updated information on alumni and campus activities, visit us on the web at www.sunybroome.edu

BROOME *Spring 2015*

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On the Cover: SUNY Broome student Tess Zizak's (ARTS '15) rendering of a popular Angelo Zuccolo publicity shot. Read more about Tess on page 16.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Editor's note: In the spirit of this issue, President Drumm has taken on the challenge of presenting his message in the theme of the arts by framing his thoughts in the form of a poem.

THE PATH TAKEN

*Frost's two roads intersecting,
poses a challenge quite vexing
Do we take the path well-traveled,
or do we venture a path less taken
like the renowned poet himself*

*Community colleges seem the path less taken,
but it's all an illusion
Those overlooking their value
perpetuate the confusion*

*Institutions like Broome
are the people's colleges
We educate more than the BAs combined,
but when the world thinks of higher ed
we are not top of the mind*

*From engineering to the arts,
from health science to commerce,
there's no one way to describe us
save beyond diverse*

*Within this volume
demonstrating our pride
We celebrate the arts
on the pages inside*

*Through music,
painting,
and literature,
our hearts shine through
At your community's college
there's something for you*

*For son or daughter
For sister or brother
There's always something here too
for father or mother*

*If there was but one sign
for every community college,
it would read without fear:
Lives Changed Here*

- Kevin E. Drumm, Ph.D.

More creative writing and photographs from our students and staff can be found in SUNY Broome Community College's literary magazine *Breaking Ground*. For more information on this annual publication contact the editor and SUNY Broome English Professor Christopher Origer, Ph.D. at origerac@sunybroome.edu.

*White Chrysanthemum, oil and acrylic on canvas by Dr. Mark Williamson,
Adjunct Instructor, Art and Design.*

A *New* Face for an Old Place

Celebrating the renovation of the Darwin R. Wales Center

One of the many changes on the SUNY Broome campus

You can think of the Darwin R. Wales Center as SUNY Broome's welcome station. Located at the front of campus, it's often the first stop for prospective students enrolling in classes, alumni and other visitors. But the 58-year-old building was in dire need of a facelift to make it handicapped accessible, energy efficient and more welcoming.

"Some of it hasn't been touched since the 1950s," said Cathy Williams, Executive Director of the Broome Community College Foundation, which has its home in the building. "We felt it was a priority to make the Wales building accessible, open, welcoming and set a great first impression."

A \$4.6 million renovation project reinvented the space. Gone are the lockers that once lined the second floor. The 1950s feel was replaced by more modern décor with glass features, fresh colors and new carpet and tile. From the outside, it exhibits some of the same visual influences as the new Natural Science Center with its large windows.

Those new windows, a new roof and a central HVAC system – the latter replacing old air-conditioning units – make the renovated building more energy efficient, said Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs Regina Losinger (BA '78). Crews literally punched a hole in the front of the building to create an open, airy two-story lobby. A new elevator makes the building handicapped-accessible for the first time. The project also included renovated and fully-accessible bathrooms and niches to display artwork and more on the second floor.

"Wales is our gateway building to the College, housing not only our Admissions Office, but also Human Resources, Continuing Education, Alumni Affairs and our Foundation, among other critical college services," SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm said. "Its

updated appearance is now reflective of the quality of the College itself. It's now a wow building to coincide with the wow experience at SUNY Broome."

The project was paid for, in part, with \$1.5 million in SUNY capital funds and another \$1.5 million from Broome County. The Broome Community College Foundation worked to raise \$800,000 in private and foundation funds for the project, which SUNY will match for the local share. The \$800,000 in private support has been provided by the following: Dr. G. Clifford and Florence B. Decker Foundation, Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, Miller S. and Adelaide Gaffney Foundation, the BCC Foundation, the Akel family, Hinman, Howard & Kattell LLP, Kent and Barbara Turner, Security Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York and the Serafini family.

Despite the extensive nature of the renovations, the price tag was a fraction of the estimated \$10 million to \$12 million it would have cost to replace the building. "We renovated it for about a third of the cost of new construction and made it significantly more energy-efficient and attractive," Losinger said.

Built in 1956, the Darwin R. Wales Center is among a cluster of original campus facilities that include the Science, Student Services and the Mechanical buildings. While the administrative suite had been upgraded through the years with private funds and a new roof added here or there, much of Wales had remained in its original condition.

Originally, administrators thought the core buildings might have to come down due to their inability to accommodate HVAC and computer infrastructure, primarily because of low ceilings. Improvements in technology, however, made it possible to fit more into a tight space, Losinger said.

Construction started in September, sending the departments and offices the building housed – Admissions, Continuing Education, the Foundation, Administration, Shared Governance, Alumni Affairs, and Marketing and Communications – into other accommodations for the school year. They returned to Wales once the project wrapped up in early June 2014. "This far exceeded anything I thought was possible with this amount of funding," Losinger said of the Wales Center. "The aesthetics of the space are amazing!"

In addition to its role on campus, the building is also a reminder of its namesake's legacy. One of SUNY Broome's original trustees, local attorney Darwin Wales believed that a college education should be affordable for all. He helped create the BCC Foundation and supported the College in diversifying its curriculum, including such majors as liberal arts. Then-governor Nelson Rockefeller appointed him to the SUNY Board of Trustees, where he was the lone voice promoting the importance of community colleges. In 2007, SUNY Broome awarded him its first honorary doctorate. He died in 2010 at the age of 95.

"He not only had a keen mind, but a good deal of humility, respect for others and a gracious nature," said SUNY Broome Board of Trustees Chairman James Orband, also managing partner of the law firm Hinman, Howard & Kattell, a donor to the project and the firm where the building's namesake worked. "Mr. Wales was a shining example of the law profession and of the community."

"He loved this college. It was his first real community effort. This educational facility was probably the most cherished thing he's ever done."

- John Wales

His passion for education stems from his own experience, noted his son, John Wales. Darwin Wales' father died in 1929, with his money tied up in the stock market. Thanks to the generosity of a family friend, Darwin and his sisters were able to receive a four-year education. "He loved this college. It was his first real community effort," John Wales said of his father. "This educational facility was probably the most cherished thing he's ever done."

The Darwin R. Wales Center is only one piece of the Dickinson campus' dramatic - and ongoing - transformation. The brand new Natural Science Center opened for the Fall 2013 semester, and features modern classrooms and laboratory facilities that will keep students in step with the latest developments in science, engineering and technology.

Beds are now nearly full at the new Student Village complex at the front of the campus. Open in time for the

Fall 2014 semester, the new residence hall houses 365 students and a full-time director, giving SUNY Broome students the opportunity for on-campus living for the very first time.

When it comes to the front of campus, the only recognizable feature from the old college is 901 Front Street, which is scheduled to be razed in the near future.

Other campus buildings are also due for an overhaul. A \$19.5 million program, dubbed Critical Core Building Rehabilitation, will transform the remaining core buildings in a similar manner as Wales. Once funding is in place, the College could renovate a building every other year.

[Focus]

ON STUDENTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MEET RA AND INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT SHAINA LOUIS (RN '16)



While Shaina Louis is more than 1,600 miles from her home, her words are continuing to help her fellow Haitians. Louis, a native of Port-au-Prince, translated computer training materials from English to Haitian Creole last summer as part of the Bridge to Haiti Program.

The program is a collaboration between the Bridging the Digital Divide Program (BDDP) and SUNY Broome's Health for Haiti service learning course, and has created several solar-powered computer labs in the island nation. The firm Geodis Wilson, which is also a major BDDP partner, provides computer equipment and reverse logistics. So far, the program is offering computer literacy training to children and young adults at four locations in Haiti.

SUNY Broome Biology Professor Jennifer Musa, co-instructor of the College's Health for Haiti program, contacted Louis for translation help last summer. "I was translating documents on how to use the mouse, the screens – a basic computer class. It took about two months to do," Louis remembered.

Louis first came to SUNY Broome in 2011 as a non-matriculated student in order to become familiar with the language and the classes. A nursing major, she matriculated in Spring 2013 and plans to transfer to Binghamton University – where her sister Valerie is currently studying hydrology with an emphasis on water purification.

Why SUNY Broome? "It's small," explained Louis, adding that her family found out about the school through a friend of her father. "English is not our first language. We found the support we need here." English is Louis' third language, after Creole and French; she also knows Spanish. And to add to her international experience, she attended high school in France – virtually speaking, thanks to distance learning.

The last time she headed home was December 2013, and she stayed for a month before returning. This year, she plans to stay in the United States during break and volunteer at UHS, gaining needed experience for her healthcare degree. "Do I miss it? Yes and no," she said of Haiti. "I miss my house. I miss my room. But my mom comes every year from May to June."

At SUNY Broome, Louis became part of a new kind of family: that of the Student Village and its ten Resident Assistants. Living on campus brings her closer to classes and the services she needs, and also allows her to meet new people. However, Resident Assistants have a busy life, she admits. "You're an RA whenever you are in the building. I really want to go to bed by midnight," she added with a smile.

To promote community in the village, Resident Assistants plan two programs a month, as well as other events, such as a fall blood drive in partnership with the Red Cross. Louis partnered with the Learning Assistance Department for a game night, and also helped organize an empanada cooking workshop that taught residents how to cook the Latin American dish from scratch. A video game night was also in the works.

While she is often busy with challenging coursework and her RA job, Louis also stays involved with other aspects of campus life. She's involved with the International Student Organization, serving as president in 2013, as well as Phi Theta Kappa. She tutors fellow students in math, biology and chemistry, has served as a Student Ambassador and honed her public speaking with the Toastmasters.

Overall, living on campus has been a positive experience. "I have everything around me. I get to meet new people," she said. "I learned about things I wouldn't have."

Louis' passion for nursing has roots in the devastating earthquake that shattered Haiti in 2010. While shut inside away from the disaster, she was frustrated by the lack of medical personnel needed to treat the injured and the sick. "I spent one month without going outside of my house," she remembered. "My father would talk about the dead bodies."

Louis, who will graduate in 2016, ultimately envisions a career as a nurse practitioner, although she's not yet sure of a specialty. Her weekly clinical sessions at area hospitals may help inform her decision, she said. "I have to do something in Haiti," she said. "I don't know what yet, but something related to healthcare."



HEALTH FOR HAITI

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

SUNY Broome’s Second Annual Health for Haiti program was a massive and multi-faceted undertaking, requiring multiple partners that included corporations, local companies and area residents willing to donate their time, skills and funds.

Fifteen students participated in this year’s program, which ran from January 5 through 14. Created by professors Jennifer Musa and Maureen Hankin, the unique course combines a four-credit class with the opportunity to lend a helping hand in the Western Hemisphere’s poorest nation. This year’s endeavor was even greater in scope than that of the 2014 program. “Our new projects were a direct result of requests made by the communities we serve in Haiti,” Musa explained. “They asked for computers and clean water.”

Students, instructors and partners installed solar panels and a municipal-level water filtration system, taught young people digital skills on newly donated laptop computers, and instructed children in oral hygiene and nutrition. They distributed food to more than 500 widows and other families in need, visited orphans and sick infants, comforted the dying, and saw hundreds of patients at busy health clinics.

Clean water is an issue in Grande Saline, where the ground water is too brackish for wells and the local river is polluted. Enter Pall Advanced Separations Systems of Cortland, a global supplier of filtration and purification products that donated a Pall Aria™ water filtration system – essentially a smaller version of the robust membrane systems used in municipal water treatment plants around the world. The company also sent two employees – Vice President Jodi Tate and engineer Paula Stapf – to Haiti to install the unit, and their network of sales partners made monetary donations for the project.

Health for Haiti partnered with the Bridging the Digital Divide (BDDP) to create the Bridge To Haiti project. BDDP is a collaboration between SUNY Broome and Binghamton University Center for Civic Engagement helping underserved populations access technology by providing computer literacy training and refurbished computers. A

trio of computer schools that Bridge to Haiti started last summer were substantially expanded by this year’s class with an additional 62 donated laptops from Pall Advanced Separation Systems, Geodis Wilson and Sandra Wright, chair of SUNY Broome’s Department of Business Information and Technology.

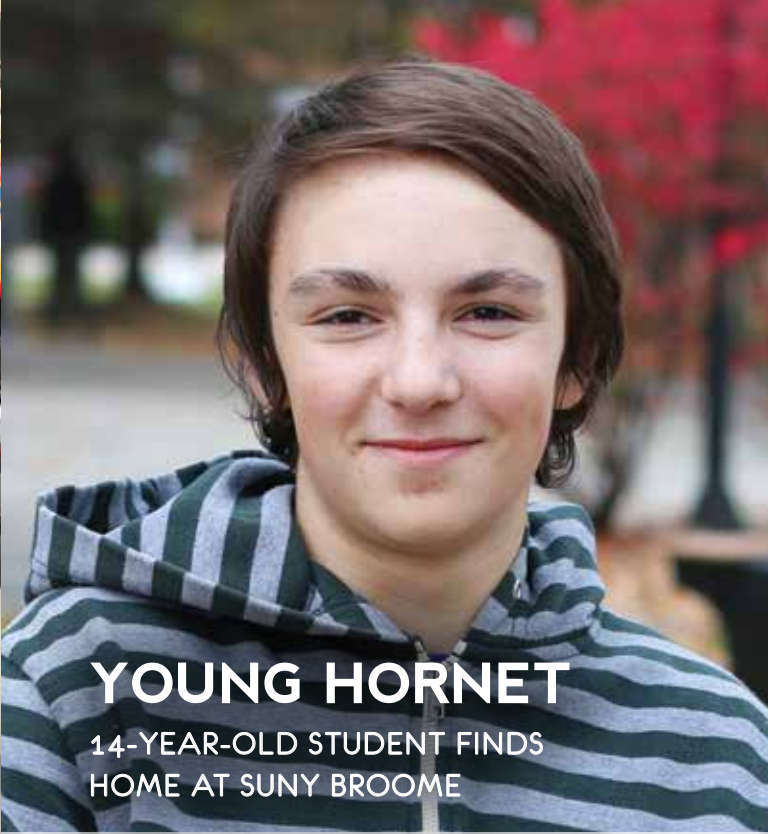
Computers need power and luckily Haiti has lots of sunshine. To harvest energy from the sun in Grande Saline, Endicott-based ETM Solar Works supplied solar power equipment, hardware and tools. Founder and CEO Dr. Gay Canough joined the Haiti trip to set up the system and participate in other service projects.

Students on Team Solar joined with Haitian volunteers as they installed the 2,000-watt system, working on wiring and even clambering on the roof. The panels provide enough electricity to power all the laptops in Grande Saline’s computer school, as well as a fan or lamp, student Alison Samsel said.

In one of the computer schools, children learned to use PowerPoint and digital cameras so they could correspond with their peers at Endicott’s George F. Johnson School. The same lessons were repeated for a group of young men, all of whom spoke excellent English and had professional aspirations as future pastors and lawyers, said Jean Musa, sister-in-law of Professor Musa. “Their enthusiasm to continue their education is amazing,” she said.

Rachel Liddic remembered a small boy who borrowed her sunglasses. When it was time to leave, he reluctantly returned them but wouldn’t let her go. She had to slip out of the room and slowly close the door as she rushed to the next aid effort. It hit her hard. “I know we had done a good thing, but it still just hurt. They were all precious,” she said, her voice thick with emotion.

Professor Musa noted that no matter how difficult the conditions or unexpected the challenge, the Health for Haiti students did all that was asked of them without complaint. “It’s probably going to be the best college course that I ever take,” Liddic said.



YOUNG HORNET

14-YEAR-OLD STUDENT FINDS HOME AT SUNY BROOME

Johannes Mason hasn’t formally picked a major yet, but he has big plans. “I want to start a company of my own. I’ve been thinking that I want to build the next Apple or Microsoft, but without the drawbacks,” the SUNY Broome student recently mused. “Nothing high-priced. I want it to be as good as it could possibly be.”

Of course, those plans can change – Johannes recently turned 14, after all, and is still figuring out what he wants to do. And while he is younger than his peers, he has been attending classes on campus since the age of 12 and is currently a full-time SUNY Broome student.

He’s also the recipient of a scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s Young Scholars Program. Each year, more than 1,000 high-achieving seventh-graders apply nationwide for 60 spaces in

the scholarship program. Recipients – who are each paired with an educator mentor – receive financial support for a variety of opportunities and resources, such as summer programs, distance learning courses, technology, tutoring and enrichment activities.

His journey began with a music theory class. Johannes, a resident of the Chenango County community of Coventry, was studying flute with a professor at Binghamton University who recommended that he take a music theory class at SUNY Broome to aid his studies. So he enrolled – along with his mother, Regina Mason. She had always wanted to learn more about the subject, she noted.

Johannes, who was homeschooled, loved the experience and is now enrolled in SUNY Broome’s Early College program. He took a placement test to enroll in standard college courses and is currently in his sixth semester on campus, his fourth full-time. This school year he has taken myriad courses including computer programming, math, English, history, chamber singers, flute and piano. Early on, Regina was required to enroll in the classes herself and attend with her son. Now, she only attends new endeavors and Johannes goes to most of his classes on his own.

While he’s a good deal younger than his fellow students, that hasn’t held him back when it comes to forging connections. You might see him grab a chess game with a friend in front of the library, or engage in other activities on campus. “I really like it. I get along with college students a lot better than people my own age,” he said. “I feel normal here. I hang out with college friends.”

Outside of class, Johannes participates in trail biking, which involves navigating through an obstacle course with large rocks and other features. He writes music, mostly vocals and keyboard, and enjoys exploring electronics by taking devices apart and seeing how they work.

No matter where his career takes him, Johannes said he feels like he’s part of the SUNY Broome family. “Originally, he was here to take one theory class, but he fell in love. It was a perfect fit,” Regina Mason added. “Now he’s home.”



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OPEN WIDE

SUNY BROOME DENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC
PLAYS A ROLE IN COMMUNITY, CAREERS

Lines of patients reclined in chairs, attended by masked clinicians in blue scrubs. It's a scene familiar to anyone who has been in a dentist's office, down to the colorful wall posters extolling the virtues of brushing and flossing.

There are some crucial differences, however: this clinic is located in the Decker Health Sciences Building on the SUNY Broome campus. White-coated faculty members stop by to review the appointment process at every step – and the care is absolutely free to SUNY Broome students and low-cost to community members.

Decades-old but continually updated, SUNY Broome's Dental Hygiene clinic provides crucial training to the region's future dental hygienists – as well as an important community service. Care for Medicaid patients is free, while the cost for children's care is \$20, adults \$30 and senior citizens \$20 – for all appointments during the course of the semester. There is a trade-off, however: appointments typically take three hours – considerably longer than an appointment at the average dentist's office – so that the students' work can be checked and evaluated.

Services include oral cancer screening, X-rays (radiography), dental cleaning, the application of sealants and fluoride treatment. While there is a supervising dentist, the clinic cannot perform dental work such as fillings.

"Last year, we saw more 1,700 community patients. Our fees are minimal," said Professor Maureen Hankin, also the chair of the Dental Hygiene Department. "We provide over \$225,000 worth of dental hygiene services to the community." The clinic treats patients of all ages and there are special events, as well. For example, the annual Veterans Day Clinic provides care at no cost to local veterans.

"We have patients that have been coming here 30 years or more," noted Clinical Instructor Carole Stanley (DH '77). "They are helpful to us because they are giving our students an opportunity to practice."

Dental hygiene has a long history at SUNY Broome, dating back to the construction of the Dickinson campus in 1956. That's when the first dental hygiene class began, with classes held at the former Kalurah Temple in downtown Binghamton before relocating to the new campus the following year. The first class of dental hygienists graduated in 1958.



After years in the Science Building, the program moved to the Decker Health Sciences building in 1998. The technology has developed significantly from that first class in the Kalurah Temple. The 26 fully-outfitted treatment units rival those found in any dental office, and almost all were full on a recent clinic day.

The clinic is totally computerized and mostly paperless. Digital Radiography sends X-ray images directly to the computer, and will ultimately replace the dark room. The dark room still exists, however, and Jamie Rosenkrans of Binghamton and Lindsey Bennett of Watertown – both second-year students doing a rotation as radiography assistants – ducked behind a black curtain to point it out. The technology at dental offices can vary widely, and students are preparing for whatever workplace they find themselves in, they said.

The program was re-accredited last year by the American Dental Association, which certifies that the clinic has met the standards for competency. It received the highest rating: accreditation without reporting, which means the program doesn't have to submit any additional reports until the next seven-year accreditation cycle.

Rotations familiarize the program's 34 senior students with every aspect of a dental hygienist's work, from conducting cleanings and exams, taking radiographs and sterilizing equipment to set-up of various stations and staffing the reception desk.

In the fall, only second-year students work on patients. First-year students begin clinic rotations in the spring, and all students are required to log a certain number of hours in the clinic. They don't mind. "This is the most important part because it's hands-on," explained Jenna Croucher of Binghamton, a second-year student. "It's what you're going to be doing in your career."

Students also visit United Methodist Homes' Hilltop Campus in Johnson City as part of an externship, where they work with elderly patients, noted Cynthia Ball, a second-year student from Cortland. It gives students the opportunity to work with patients in a different environment, and adjust to different patient needs and abilities, added second-year student Lirong Wu of Ithaca.

Both Ball and Wu commute to SUNY Broome – an admittedly long drive. There are only 11 dental hygiene schools in New York State, and none in their home communities. Wu added that she was drawn by the program's strong reputation.

So was Lindsey Bennett of Watertown. The programs at SUNY Canton and Monroe Community College were closer to her hometown, but she knew graduates from SUNY Broome and opted for Binghamton instead. "It's a very good program here," she noted.

The clinic plays a crucial part in crafting that reputation and, ultimately, in shaping future careers. "This is the most important thing we do. Until you physically do it, you don't understand. Practice makes perfect," Ball emphasized. "It makes us more ready for the real world," Wu added.

It is almost impossible to visit a dental office in New York's Southern Tier and not encounter a SUNY Broome Dental Hygiene graduate. In a 2009 article about Broome's Dental Hygiene history, Dr. Michael Carman of Carman Family Dentistry stated that, "having the program as part of our local education system is a tremendous asset to our dental community. The caliber of graduating hygienists provides us with a pool of qualified professionals like nowhere else in the Northeast."

SUNY BROOME'S PIONEERS

AA1 PROGRAM BRINGS THE FUTURE INTO FOCUS

Olivia, Patrick, Alex, Rachel and James are pioneers. The five will be the first to earn their Associate in Arts degree in a single year, as part of SUNY Broome's new AA1 degree program.

The program, which began this past fall after nearly two years of planning, is designed for academically gifted and highly motivated students. In addition to earning their degree in a single year, students engage in a capstone research project in their final semester, allowing them to perform real research as college freshmen.

With the focus firmly on rigorous academics, AA1 is unlike any other program currently being offered at New York State's community colleges, said Dean of Liberal Arts Michael Kinney at a recent reception for the program.

Newark Valley School Superintendent Ryan Dougherty, who serves on the College's AA1 Committee, described the program as classical and well-rounded, giving students an introduction to an array of topics while honing their intellectual skills. "A broad education that makes you a flexible, deep thinker is going to serve you well going forward in life," he told this year's class.

Students who rank in the top 2 percent of their graduating class at the time of their application are automatically accepted; those in the top 3 to 10 percent or have a minimum GPA of 95 are encouraged to apply and are reviewed by a selection committee, explained Katie McGowan Bucci (HSAS '03), staff associate for Fast Forward and Early College programs. For the inaugural year, 13 applied and nine were accepted, with five ultimately choosing to attend.

Alexander Kozisky of Greene received an invitation to apply, and is glad that he did. The Greene High School graduate said he found the work challenging and worthwhile. "You have to do a lot, but it's worth it to get that extra year ahead," said Kozisky, who plans to study environmental engineering at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. "It allowed me to figure out what career to go into."

Patrick Kane of Binghamton – a Presidential Honors Scholar with a full-tuition scholarship – didn't know what he wanted to pursue when he graduated from Seton Catholic Central High School. The

program helped him decide on a path – he's looking at majoring in environmental science at Binghamton University – as well as engage with teachers and staff, thanks to the small class sizes, he said.

Not every AA1 student is looking at a career in science or engineering. Fellow Seton graduate Olivia Dennison plans to pursue the visual arts, transferring to SUNY Oswego for graphic design and ultimately Syracuse University's S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications for a master's degree. Windsor High School graduate James Williams, also a Presidential Honors Scholar, is still undecided on his future plans, although he's working with mentors to help shape them.

Rachel Liddic, also a Windsor High School grad, is planning to spend a year in Costa Rica with SCORE International before transferring to a four-year school, possibly in the SUNY system. By finishing her Associate's in a single year, she will be able to transfer on time even though she is spending a gap year abroad.

Rachel, who wants to major in international studies and ultimately work for nonprofits, also got a jump on her international travel while a SUNY Broome student. She took part in the Health for Haiti class in January, which brought a water filtration system, solar energy and computer equipment to the island nation. Health education and services were provided and the group supported a food distribution program. "If you have all the requirements, do it, especially if you want to transfer," she said of the AA1 program.

Interest is picking up for next year's class, and administrators hope that the program will expand. In the meantime, this year's class continues to serve as leaders and role models – and proof that the best and the brightest can stay in the area and thrive. SUNY Broome President Kevin Drumm said he wouldn't be surprised if the AA1 pioneers continued their groundbreaking ways in their lives and careers, whether it comes to addressing global problems such as climate change or taking part in a new space race. "You will probably undertake some pioneering jobs and pioneering projects in your future, just as a matter of who you are," he told them.

Above Photo: Dr. Francis Battisti, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer talks to AA1 students.

FIVE SUNY BROOME PROGRAMS ADDED TO OPEN SUNY INITIATIVE

ONLINE LEARNING PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

In January 2014, the State University of New York launched a signature online learning initiative: Open SUNY. An enhancement to the already 400 online-enabled degree programs, Open SUNY powers 64 of these, bringing an additional layer of support for students and faculty. The program will increase access, completion, and success for students while increasing SUNY's enrollment by 100,000 students and meeting the employment needs of New York's businesses. For the first time, Open SUNY now includes certificate programs, as well as associates, bachelors and masters degrees.

SUNY Broome administers five of those programs: AAS in Clinical Laboratory Technician; Histological Technician Certificate; Human Services, AS; Computer Security and Forensics, AAS; and Business Information Management, AAS. These fully-online degree programs will be offered to students throughout SUNY and worldwide.

"We are once again proud and honored to be recognized by SUNY for our outstanding academic programs through this selection to Open SUNY," said SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm. "This inclusion of SUNY Broome in Open SUNY attests to the academic quality of our programs and demonstrates the skill of our superb faculty," added Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Francis Battisti.

SUNY Broome's Human Services Program is designed for students interested in transferring to four-year institutions to earn a baccalaureate degree in the area of human services, counseling or social work, and for students preparing for careers as paraprofessionals in educational and human services agencies upon completion of the Associate in Science degree. The degree requires the completion of an internship in the final semester, which can be done in the communities where the students reside.

Graduates of the Computer Security and Forensics degree program will be able to implement digital data security solutions for businesses that rely on computers, digital information or the Internet.

The Business Information Management degree is ideal for aspiring administrative assistants, website managers or publishers of in-house company publications. "Providing quality online education to those interested in pursuing a degree in the field information management is critical to this high needs area," said Department of Business Information Technology Chair Sandra Wright. "Online

education appeals to dislocated workers who need to hone their technology skills in order to be competitive in today's work force, as well as traditional students who are comfortable learning and working in a virtual environment."

Histological technicians have an important role in healthcare: they perform, develop, evaluate, correlate and assure accuracy and validity of laboratory testing and procedures; direct and supervise anatomic pathology laboratory resources and operations; and collaborate in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. At the end of their studies, Clinical Laboratory Technician graduates will complete clinical training in hospital laboratories to provide hands-on experience as well as excellent training for immediate employment.

Through a comprehensive set of support services unique to Open SUNY, online students and faculty are able to connect in the same way traditional, on-campus students and faculty connect. For Open SUNY students, these new support services include: a 24/7 HelpDesk that assists students with technical questions; online academic tutoring, available day and night; a personal student concierge who connects students to representatives from their home campus when needed; and expanded access to applied learning opportunities that enhance student knowledge and give students a competitive edge by providing them with hands-on work experience in their field prior to graduation.

For faculty, SUNY has established a Center for Online Teaching Excellence (COTE), a professional development community where faculty of all levels of experience in online education from across the system have an opportunity to learn more about new online teaching practices and share ideas and techniques with colleagues across SUNY.

"In addition to enhancing the online programs offered across SUNY's 64 campuses, Open SUNY aims to create an environment where students can begin their online education at any stage and have access to a ladder of opportunities through earning a masters or doctorate," said SUNY Provost Alexander N. Cartwright.

A complete list of the programs offered through Open SUNY, as well as further information for prospective students, is available at www.open.suny.edu.

INSPIRATION

The many faces of art at SUNY Broome



STANDING OVATION

Angelo Zuccolo and His Legacy

After the curtain falls, the audience empties and the crew leaves for the night, a small light continues to shine in a darkened theater.

And by the dim glow of the ghost light, according to theater tradition, another show – elegant and otherworldly – takes the stage. Every theater has its ghosts, you see: after actors pass, their spirits return to every theater they performed in.

SUNY Broome Professor Angelo Zuccolo, the driving force behind the College's theater program for 30 years, used to tell students and performers about the tradition of the ghost light, his daughter Marielle Zuccolo (LAAA '02) remembered.

A man of many talents, the actor, stage director and poet died May 15, 2013, at the age of 72, after a lifetime of inspiring others to reach their creative potential.

But the Little Theatre, where he spent much of his 30 years on campus, will hold more than Zuccolo's spirit: it will bear his name in tribute. On July 24, 2014, the College's Board of Trustees voted to rename the facility the Angelo Zuccolo Little Theatre, saying that he "exemplified SUNY Broome's commitment to the community."

"He saw theater and acting as a way for people to discover themselves," said Jim Gormley, an associate professor in English and psychology who knew Zuccolo for more than 15 years and performed in some of his works. "He took you where you were and brought you along."

You could say the arts were in Angelo Zuccolo's blood. A native of Providence, Rhode Island, he was born into a family of actors, poets, sculptors, painters and singers. His father came from vaudeville, remembered Francis Battisti (BT '68), now SUNY Broome's Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer and Zuccolo's brother in all but blood.

Before coming to SUNY Broome, Zuccolo studied acting with William Melnitz, Alfred Brooks and Norman Lofland. He performed on stage, in film and television in both the United States and abroad, including the title role in James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake* at the Holland Festival in the Netherlands and Liguro in Machiavelli's *The Mandrake* in Norway.

In an interesting turn of plot, Zuccolo and Battisti – who later became godfathers to each other's children – started work at what was then Broome Community College, on the same day in the fall of 1971. They didn't hit it off – at least, not right away. "Who does that guy think he is?" Battisti mused to himself, as he first spied Zuccolo in his beret and scarf. It turns out that Zuccolo had the same opinion of Battisti, after seeing the latter's tie and suit cuffs.

At the end of the year, they ran into each other in the cafeteria and found they had a few things in common: both were Italian and in need of a place to live. They ended up sharing a house together for three years. The consummate storyteller, speaker and director, Zuccolo taught Battisti the art of public speaking, proposing one day that they would "speak for their supper" at the local American Legion. The two went on to train NYSEG employees together for a decade. "He would bring out strengths in people that they never knew they had," Battisti said.

Zuccolo wasn't the first person to bring theater to SUNY Broome, but he shaped the program into what it is today – expanding classes year by year and taking over the Little Theatre. Now the theater's costume room, his office was located directly backstage of the 200-seat facility.

"The theater was once an auditorium used by the whole college," explained Performing Arts Department Chair Katherine Bacon. "He claimed it for the theater department."



When he began, the theater program wasn't a degree program but a club, remembered Carole Stanley (DH '77), a clinical instructor in the Department of Dental Hygiene, Medical Assisting and Health Studies, and Zuccolo's stage manager for decades. She joined that club as a student in 1974, and watched Zuccolo transform it into a rigorous program under the Liberal Arts' General Studies degree.

"Angelo was very integral in establishing theater as being more than a club," Stanley said. "A lot of his work is what got it to its stature." Theater in the round, dramas, farces, traditional, contemporary, one-act, full length: Zuccolo's students did it all to better prepare them for the theater world. One exception was musicals, due to the lack of singers in some years. However, bucking the trend, Zuccolo's last show at SUNY Broome was indeed a musical, and a famous one: *The Fantasticks*.

His students put on multiple shows a year and also paid visits to the Big Apple. Their shows weren't always local: in March of 1974, the BCC Players performed at an international theater event in Scandinavia. "Within four months, we raised \$12,000 and took 20 students to Norway," Battisti remembered.

Zuccolo helped students launch their careers, connecting them with commercial work. Many went on to New York City to perform and others started in local and regional theaters. Just about any community theater group had connections with Zuccolo's program, Stanley noted. She should know: she's been the director and advisor for the Chenango Valley High School Drama Club for more than 15 years, and modeled her work there on her mentor's program.

Under Zuccolo's influence, the Little Theatre became more than just a performance venue. It was a home for the College's students, whether they auditioned for leading roles or preferred to work behind the scenes. "He was passionate about theater; he was passionate about family. Our dad combined that passion into a warm and welcoming environment," said his daughter Angelique Zuccolo (LAAA '98), who – along with sister Marielle – had been a student in the theater program and graduated from SUNY Broome. "We saw his life both at home and work. He lived an authentic life," added Angelique, now a fashion merchandiser in New York City who expresses her artistic side through ballroom and Spanish dance. "Loving, welcoming – it didn't matter who you were or where you came from; you were welcomed."

Zuccolo – who directed more than 300 stage and media productions – brought both theater and the spirit of welcome to the community as a whole. He produced and directed many theater performances for various local charities including the Southern Tier AIDS Program, the SOS Shelter, the hearing impaired community, the Binghamton Public Library, and the Rainbow Time Children's Theatre.

Rainbow Time cast disabled actors in non-traditional roles and performed throughout Broome County, Gormley remembered. They ended up at the Little People of America Convention in Philadelphia one year. "He was a bridge between the arts community and the rest of the world," Battisti reflected.

He also served as artistic director of the renowned Leonard Melfi Repertory Theatre, formed in cooperation with the Binghamton-born playwright and actor who first gained fame in the 1960s. Melfi would write the plays and interact with students in the company, as well as connect them with people he knew in New York City.

"His biggest message was to always be yourself and not minimize your talents, but showcase them. Everyone was important. Going backstage – it was really like a family. He embodied light and love and community."

Angelo, who retired from SUNY Broome in 2001, was also the author of myriad play scripts and teleplays. He received international acclaim for his Italian-American short stories and his trilogy of romantic poetry.

After his death, college officials received many letters from Zuccolo's former students saying how the professor had touched and transformed their lives. They also received a petition, signed by 402 people, requesting that the Little Theatre bear his name, which prompted the Board of Trustees to approve the measure at its July 2014 meeting. It's the perfect tribute, friends said. "This was his life," Stanley said. "He worked so hard at creating such a quality professional program."

Angelique and Marielle Zuccolo expressed their gratitude for the support shown to their father, and the renaming of the theater. "His biggest message was to always be yourself and not minimize your talents, but showcase them," said Marielle, who lives in the Binghamton area and works as a dietician. "Everyone was important. Going backstage – it was really like a family. He embodied light and love and community."

- Carole Stanley (DH '77)

- Marielle Zuccolo (LAAA '02)



JIM HULL (LA '80) REMEMBERS A MENTOR AND A FRIEND

When he arrived at what was then BCC in the Fall of 1978, Jim Hull (LA '80) had two goals: train in theater and make the Hornets baseball team as a pitcher. He did both, but soon the schedules conflicted and he had to make a choice. "I chose theater, despite the fact that I really didn't know what to make of this Zuccolo guy," explains Hull.

In reflection, he knows his decision was the right one. "I took a variety of acting classes from Angelo, and they

were so far above anything I'd ever encountered in high school or elsewhere," he recalls. He also remembers Angelo's methods as a bit strange and the man himself sometimes difficult to get along with. As time went on, Jim understood that all of those exercises and that bluster were very calculated. "He knew that anyone who chose to pursue acting as a career was setting themselves on a course through shark-infested waters and that if we couldn't handle *him*, we didn't have a prayer in making it in the big time," says Hull.

As Angelo softened over the years – Jim credits the birth of Angelo's daughters Angelique and Marielle for much of this – he never wavered from taking the process of rehearsing and performing very seriously. Jim witnessed him enjoying both a lot more as the years went by. Jim and Angelo performed frequently together:

their performances of *Waiting for Godot* remain among his favorite theatrical memories. And knowing that Jim was also a musician – he has been the front man for the band Friends, now called Old Friends, for many years – Angelo often used that skill even when the show did not necessary call for it.

Angelo's impact on Jim was profound. According to Jim, not only did the relationship help him overcome a shy and withdrawn personality, but it led to what would soon be the beginning of his career. Angelo made the recommendation that he apply for a part-time on-air personality opening at a local radio station; Jim got the gig, eventually turning it into a full-time job that lasted 20 years. "It was all because of Angelo. I can't imagine I would have ever thought to pursue radio," Jim says.

In addition to continuing to sing professionally, Jim can still be seen occasionally on stage with a local theater and is the Public Information Specialist for Susquehanna Valley Central School District. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have 5-year-old twin girls – welcomed to the world by their "Uncle" Angelo, who remained active in their lives until his passing.

"If I have succeeded at all as a singer, actor or human being, it is a direct result of having had the good fortune to meet Angelo Zuccolo," says Jim. "He was a true mentor – an extremely talented guy who was always willing to teach everything he knew to others."

Photo: Angelo and Jim in a BCC performance of *Some Men Need Help*.

ROBYN BENNETT (ISAS '01) GIVEN THE TOOLS TO PURSUE HER DREAMS



When you watch Robyn Bennett (ISAS '01) perform with her band Bang Bang in their latest music video *Too Much*, you know you are witnessing a seasoned professional with enormous talent.

After graduating from Broome, she received her bachelor's from Vassar College, where she sang with the choir and was part of the modern dance company as a dancer and choreographer. She then ventured to Paris, and performed in a number of small productions before landing the role as Texas (and understudy to Sally Bowles) in *Cabaret* at the Folies Bergère Theater. After two years with *Cabaret*, Robyn decided to concentrate more on her music, and

with her husband – French trombone player Ben Van Hille – Robyn Bennett and Bang Bang was formed.


Photo: Robyn Bennett from the cover of the album *The Wait*. Photo by Louis Barsiat.

Looking back on her time at BCC, she remembers taking that first theater class with Angelo Zuccolo as the instructor. "I felt like I could be a 'real' actor. Angelo took us and our work very seriously all while being fun and energetic," she reflects. She also recalls being late for class once and having Angelo school her on the negative impact her behavior had on the group. "He had a very imposing presence and demanded respect," says Robyn.

She took what she had learned under Zuccolo and applied it to her career aspirations – using monologues from his class for future auditions and realizing that she had the skills to play a variety of roles. That confidence is evident as you view Robyn's musical performances, available on YouTube or by visiting the Robyn Bennett and Bang Bang Facebook page.

Still calling Paris her home, she and the band are now touring Europe promoting their latest album, *The Wait*. It is their third album, but the first consisting of all original songs, co-written with her husband. They are currently working on the next album, due for release in Fall 2015.

A very talented actor with a rigorous work ethic, Angelo touched the lives of many people – and Robyn considers herself one of them. "He helped people believe in themselves and gave them the tools to pursue their dreams," she says.



VESTAL'S VERY OWN VAN GOGH:

TESS ZIZAK (ARTS '15)

BY MARY BELL

The woods behind the Weis store in Vestal may not stand out to the average person, but it was the perfect subject for 19-year-old artist Tess Zizak (ARTS '15). She took a scene that most people wouldn't consider to be more than a background and created an eerie image that looked like it could have been the setting of a Stephen King novel.

Zizak is far from your average young adult. In addition to being a full-time Visual Communications student at SUNY Broome and a hardworking hostess at Nick's Italian Restaurant in Endicott, she has a very unique talent when it comes to art. "Her paintings look they were done by a much older person," Binghamton University senior Danielle Gray said. "There is a lot of capacity in them and they seem like the artist has had a lot of experience."

Zizak grew up in a family of artists; both her aunt and cousin make portraits that are identical to photographs. However, Tess went in a different direction by producing abstract and expressionist pieces. The first subject she ever learned to draw were trees, under the instruction and guidance of her mother. Her favorite painting is Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and she has adapted his Post-Impressionist style for many of her works. She did make an exception when commissioned to do this issue of *BROOME's* cover portrait of Angelo Zuccolo.

In her third semester at SUNY Broome and with plans to possibly go to Binghamton University, this young painter is kept very busy and said most of her art work has to be done at midnight – the only time she has for herself. Sometimes, she will stare at a blank page for hours, making random lines and shapes until she is inspired.

"A lot of my work is done very impulsively" Zizak said. Once, she made her father pull to the side of the road when she noticed a barn she wanted to capture. That move paid off; the barn ended up at the gallery in the Vestal Starbucks. Her work has been featured a number of times locally including at a reception held by SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm.

For all her major works, Zizak uses an art room set up at her grandparents' house. One night over last year's winter break, she suddenly felt inspired to paint the galaxy on the ceiling – similar to Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel. Unlike the Renaissance artist, she did not have the luxury of a plank hanging from the ceiling to lay on – just a chair and a tarp on the floor. Tess laughed when she

explained how difficult and time consuming the process of creation can be, but a little inconvenience was not going to stop this artist from following her vision. She is still working on the project, using glow-in-the-dark and acrylic paint. Painting with one's canvas overhead is exhausting, but the future masterpiece will be well worth the effort.

Zizak's favorite medium is oil. It is a difficult substance, but results in rich and vivacious color. This is perfect for her pieces because she tries to portray emotion through the colors and brushstrokes. Her most important art tool is her pallet knife, a flexible blade used for applying paint that she used for her barn piece.


When asked to sum up what she wants people to see when they observe her work, Tess answered: "Emotion. I want them to feel something." Most of her art is inspired by strong emotions and music. She always listens to music while creating her art, whether it is for a school assignment or a personal project. Her favorite Pandora station is the Beatles, and she has many portraits of the Fab Four. Unlike her nature pieces, these are detailed and realistic pictures, although they still carry Zizak's trademark emphasis of shading and darker hues.

Between the portraits and nature scenes, Zizak also has an impressive collection of abstract work. One favorite is a piece she did in high school using India ink. It starts as one dark line that branches off into a cluster of spots, and other lines that break off. "If I had to say it was something, I'd say it was a flower of some sort," she said.

How does she know when an abstract piece is finished? "When it feels balanced," she said. "If you did anything else to it, you would disrupt it."

There is no denying Zizak has a very bright future ahead of her. She is an old soul with an extraordinary gift and the ability to capture the images in her mind on paper. She said she would like to go into art therapy after college, but hopes to one day open her own studio. Wherever her talent takes her, SUNY Broome is very fortunate to have her start her career here.

Writer Mary Bell (LA '15) is a SUNY Broome student.



FROM PERFORMER TO DIRECTOR: MUSIC COORDINATOR BRENDA DAWE INSTRUMENTAL IN IMPROVEMENTS TO SUNY BROOME'S MUSIC PROGRAM

On the far side of campus, the Music Program has finally found a home. Piano music floats through the halls of the Campus Services (CS) building as students bow their heads over the keys, rapt with concentration. Others meet with professors, or chat with each other in a lounge, sprawled comfortably on a couch.

Before the 2014-2015 school year, the Music Program was split, with some courses in the CS building and others in the Arts Annex, now the home of Public Safety. And while Campus Services is a bit off the campus' most traveled walkways, Brenda Dawe – the department's new director – wouldn't have it any other way. "We're finally all together again. Students are hanging out, something they didn't do as much in the Annex building," she said recently. "It's a nice little place to be."

While new to the director's chair, Dawe came to SUNY Broome as an adjunct more than eight years ago and also operates a private voice studio. She is intimately familiar with the music world, earning her master of music degree from the prestigious Manhattan School of Music.

A native of Newfoundland, Canada, and a newly minted American citizen, she spent about seven years as an opera singer, performing with opera companies across the continent, including Calgary, Virginia, Arizona and Syracuse. She's also performed nearly 20 leading roles with Tri-Cities Opera.

Dawe ended up making Binghamton her home base, as it allowed her to audition in New York City. After she met her husband and married, she re-evaluated the direction of her career, focusing more on teaching. She still performs, but to more local audiences at venues in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes. "As an opera singer, you go away for three to four weeks at a time. It didn't work in the new family situation," she explained.

She fills the seat previously held by Dr. Michael Kinney, who is now Dean of Liberal Arts. Paul Sweeny stepped in as acting music

coordinator while a search was conducted for Kinney's successor. It took two years to fill the position, and Dawe applied during the second search. "I really love the students here and I'm passionate about the program. I saw this as an opportunity to do more," she said.

There are about 90 students in the music program. Many come to SUNY Broome for two years before transferring to another college or university, and SUNY Broome works with other colleges to ensure the easy transfer of credits.

A host of new faculty members have come on board, including Peter Sicilian, a former opera singer and former director for Tri-Cities Opera; pianist Margeret "Pej" Reitz; Fitzroy Stewart, who directs the SUNY Broome College Choir and Concert Choir; and Matthew Clauhs, who directs the jazz band. This spring, Laurence Elder joined the department to teach ear-training. "They're very well-respected in the music community," Dawe said of the instructors.

Students have a chance to put their practice to work at a host of concerts during the year, including the choirs, jazz band and guitar ensemble. This spring, the College will have a string ensemble for the first time in its history, Dawe said. A Performing Arts Week scheduled for May will also showcase all of the College's music ensembles, as well as its theater and dance programs.

There are also plans for additional renovations to the music suite, and donor support is encouraged and greatly appreciated. For more information on how to make a gift to support the Music Program on campus, please contact the BCC Foundation at 607.778.5182 or email foundation@sunybroome.edu.

"We have a lot of goals," Dawe said of the future. "Our sound engineering program is doing well. I'd like to see our music education and performance program grow in numbers. I think these renovations are the key to our program's success."

Above Photo: Brenda Dawe (right) with student Katie Glasgow.



PROFESSOR, STORYTELLER, ALUMNA: REMEMBERING RUTH STRATTON (LA '66)

Peer through the doorway in a professor’s office, and you will see all sorts of interesting items: books galore, artwork, tchotchkes from around the world.

Ruth Stratton, as it turns out, had a cast iron bathtub lined with fur – her reading space, former colleagues said. This surreal item was inspired by the ultimate Surrealist: Salvadore Dali, whose window display at high-end Big Apple retailer Bonwit Teller included a bathtub lined with black Persian lamb’s wool and filled with water.

Unlike Dali’s tub, Stratton’s was dry and the fur came from her mother’s two fur coats, which she had placed inside. In its way, the tub came to symbolize Stratton’s essence: innovative, intellectual and unique.

She passed away peacefully January 26, 2015 at the age of 81, after decades of inspiring SUNY Broome students and audiences enchanted by her work as a professional storyteller. “Ruth was an innovative, compassionate teacher. She championed the underdog, and was always willing (in fact, pleased) to do what she could to help a struggling student,” remembered English Professor Greg Saraceno. “She also had a quirky, unique sense of humor.”

Born in New York City, she moved – at age 13 – to a far different environment: a dairy farm in the rural upstate community of South Plymouth. In 1951, she graduated from Norwich High School and married William Stratton.

As a young mother, she later went to college, graduating from SUNY Broome – then known as Broome Tech – in 1966, surrounded by her four children. She then went on to Binghamton University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in literature. By 1970, she made an appearance in Broome Tech’s yearbook yet again – this time as an instructor in the Liberal Arts division.

She spent her entire career teaching English and literature at SUNY Broome, retiring in June 1996. “Broome was like part of her family,” said her son-in-law, SUNY Broome Business instructor Stephen Ohl. While here, she pioneered an effort to bring English courses to inmates at the nearby Broome County Jail.

Now an assistant professor herself, Joyce Prindle (LAAA ’96) took Stratton’s English class during her first semester as a BCC student in 1993. The two remained friends ever since, and Stratton made a surprise visit to Prindle’s classroom last year to speak with students. “She was a nurturing, creative woman who was clearly in her element in the classroom,” Prindle said. “She truly cared about her students.”

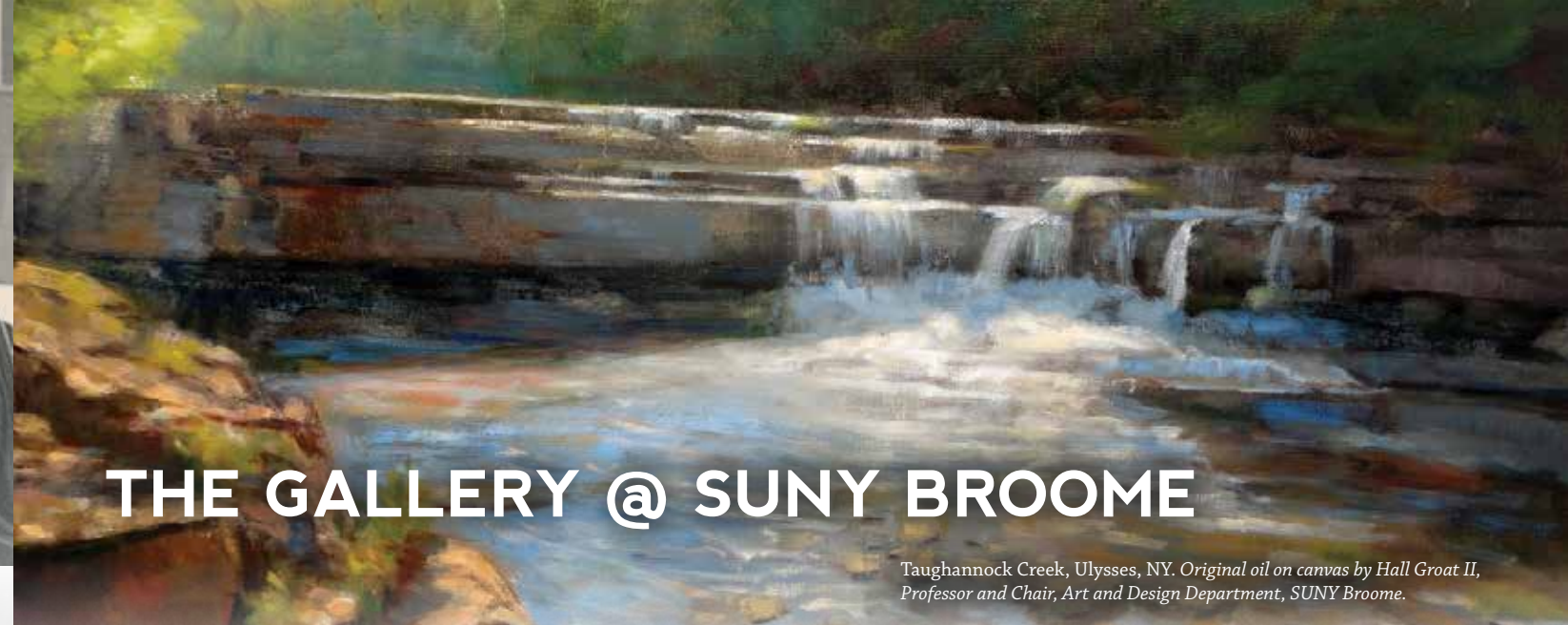
When she wasn’t in the classroom, Stratton worked as a professional storyteller, traveling the country to demonstrate her skills at national festivals. She would sometimes be accompanied by her youngest and very special daughter, Sarah, as she traveled to festivals. Often, Sarah would sign while her mother narrated the stories. She also participated in writing groups and traveled all over the world, from Alaska and the Caribbean to Europe, Japan and the Soviet Union. She was a fan, too, of Liberal Arts Dean Michael Kinney’s jazz band and made it a point to make their shows. She loved to dance, he said. “She had a real love for the arts,” said Dean Kinney, adding: “She always had a smile on her face.”

When it came to music, Stratton didn’t just love jazz; she and her friend Professor Harold Sunshine introduced Prindle to the opera for the first time years ago. “Ruth’s love of the arts was obvious to all who made her acquaintance,” Prindle said.

The fur-lined tub, as it happens, made its way to the Alms House, where Professor Stratton’s office was practically on the front porch, Dean Kinney remembered. It was a tiny space and those passing by could see her grading papers and diligently at work.

Stratton had an appreciation for the campus’ history, and remembered the former occupants of the Alms House with a campus ceremony in the fall. Years ago, the campus was home to the county Poor Farm, along with grazing cows, gardens and fruit trees. At the sole remaining apple tree, Stratton would make a short speech about the former residents, and invite students and faculty to write a wish on a slip of paper and place it in the tree’s cavity.

Her reputation as a consummate academic with a talent for engaging students in learning preceded her, even among colleagues in different divisions. “Ruth was one of the many distinguished faculty who helped SUNY Broome pave the road to excellence as a college,” Business Department Professor Mid Semple said.



THE GALLERY @ SUNY BROOME

Taughannock Creek, Ulysses, NY. Original oil on canvas by Hall Groat II, Professor and Chair, Art and Design Department, SUNY Broome.

December 2014 marked the grand opening of the Gallery @ SUNY Broome, located in the former periodicals room in the Cecil C. Tyrrell Library. “This gallery has been in the making for the past nine months,” Library Director Robin Petrus told guests. It now offers monthly exhibitions featuring different SUNY Broome-affiliated artists, collections and student projects.

SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm said the campus contains an enormous amount of art, including collections interspersed throughout the facilities. He had been surprised to learn that the College didn’t have a dedicated gallery beforehand, and noted that such spaces have an educational purpose. “It’s quite appropriate for a college as established as SUNY Broome to have a standing gallery,” he said.

It was fitting that the inaugural exhibit would be that of Ed Aswad’s photography collection. “We probably have a near complete pictorial history of the Binghamton area included in Ed’s collection. We were so honored when he offered to donate his prize Carriage House Collection to the College and its showing was a perfect opening to the Gallery,” said Drumm.

Another featured exhibit at the Gallery was *Ticked Off: Fighting local Lyme Disease* which contained student research and artwork with the intention of informing visitors about the growing concern over Lyme disease in Broome County.

Visual Communication students have also gotten in on the action. A recent show at the Gallery presented a cross-section of fine and applied art from both the Art and Design and Communications and Media Arts Departments at SUNY Broome, created within courses offered by these departments.

In February, the Gallery showcased the prolific artwork of nine talented Art and Design instructors. The works included brilliant landscape photography and oil paintings, along with a series of elegant ceramic vessels, mysterious etchings, sensitive monotypes and thought-provoking mixed-media pieces.

Other exhibits on the schedule include those from the Child Care Center, Communication Department, Early Childhood Education and additional photos from the Aswad Collection. For more information on future exhibits and hours for the Gallery @ SUNY Broome please visit www.sunybroome.edu/gallery.



Performing Arts Week

May 8th - May 15th

View the full agenda of performances happening at:
www.sunybroome.edu/performingartsweek

OVERCOMING Adversity

1950s

John T. (MT '54) and Nancy P. (MO '55) Armstrong are living in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. John, who turned 80 this year, still plays the saxophone, is a member of ROMRS (Retired Old Musicians Playing Swing), hosts a classical music radio show on WRIU, and active in Habitat for Humanity. Nancy serves on the Finance and Investment Committees for the Girl Scouts of Southern New England and sings in her church choir.

Carlton B. Warren (ET '56) is currently working on the design details of his next house. He enjoys playing chess and resides in Grand Island, Florida.

Melvin F. Beam (ET '58/IT '71) retired in 1992 as a senior mechanical designer for IBM and was a coach operator for Broome County Transit from 1992-99. He spends his summers at the family camp in Old Forge and enjoys maintaining and showing his 1967 Ford Galaxie Convertible. He lives in Vestal, New York.

Courtland B. Birchard (ET '58) retired last June at age 85. He still enjoys his artwork, ventriloquism and playing the guitar. He winters in Arizona near one daughter and summers in Montrose, Pennsylvania, near another.

Dorothy E. Heller (BT '59) as a resident of Clay, New York, has been the Town's Historian for 9 years, obtained historic markers for Town historic sites, created a DVD of Clay history, holds a children's historic camp each July and speaks about Clay's 200-year history at the annual Fall Festival.

Brent J. Ingraham (MT '59) has been enjoying retirement in the South since 2001. He resides in Calabash, North Carolina.

Donald J. Nauerz (ET '59) has been retired for over 20 years and is enjoying his new great-grandson Liam. He lives in Johnson City, New York.

1960s

Sandra Sortman Raponi (DH '62) resides in Hudson, Massachusetts, and enjoys traveling, gardening and biking.

Wallace (CT '69) and Dorothy Kerr (LA '66) Benjamin are both retired and living in Ocean View, Delaware. They stay involved with community affairs, traveling and enjoying their four grandchildren who live in New York State.

Arlen D. Meddaugh (ET '68) retired in 2003 from Alcan Aluminum Corp. in Oswego, New York. He spends his time camping, visiting relatives and enjoying family. He lives in Sterling, New York.

Pauline R. (Wiktorrek) Azevedo (MO '69) passed the national certification test to become a certified medical assistant in 2013. She plans to retire this June from Northwest Primary Care where she has worked for 15 years. Pauline and her husband, Ernie, welcomed their first grandchild in March. They reside in Milwaukie, Oregon.

Robert L. Sunheimer (LT '69) recently co-authored the textbook *Clinical Laboratory Urinalysis and Body Fluids* for Pearson Education, Inc. He has his Masters in Medical Technology ('74) from SUNY Upstate Medical University. He resides in Syracuse, New York.

FULFILLING A MISSION: KEN FERNALD LEADS A.V.R.E.

Born with a form of juvenile macular degeneration, Ken Fernald (BUMM '04), has been legally blind since he was eight years old. In recent years, there has been a significant deterioration in Ken's vision – leaving him with very little central vision and sensitivity to lighting conditions. Ken has never allowed his visual impairment to stop him. "I see my vision loss as an inconvenience, not as a barrier," says Fernald.

After graduation from Chenango Valley High School, Ken worked at Universal Instruments doing electrical assembly. When downsizing eliminated his job, he enrolled at SUNY Broome. At the same time he went to work for the Blind Work Association (A.V.R.E.'s previous name).

Hesitant to work for an agency for the blind due to stigmas that he perceived to be attached, he considered the job on the production line to be a quick "pit stop" in his career. It wasn't long before he began to believe in the positive impact that agencies like A.V.R.E. can have on the lives of people with vision loss.

During his tenure at A.V.R.E., he was promoted to Quality Assurance Technician and later the Director of Industries and New Business Development. Named Vice President of Operations in 2003, he held that position until appointed President and CEO in January 2014, becoming one of six CEOs of agencies for the blind (out of 85) who are themselves visually impaired.

Ken graduated from the National Industries for the Blind's Business Leaders Program, where he earned a certificate in Business Management from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Graduate Business Administration. He is pursuing a degree in business management from Empire State College.

Representing A.V.R.E. within the industry, Ken serves on the boards of the New York Vision Rehabilitation Association, the National Association for the Employment of People who are Blind, and National Industries for the Blind. Locally, he serves on the UHS Foundation Board.

Married for 26 years, Ken and his wife Amy have two children: son Michael is a senior at SUNY Brockport and daughter Sarah is a junior at Chenango Valley High School. The Fernalds reside in Binghamton.



JOHN'S STORY: HOW ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LED TO A COLLEGE DEGREE AND A NEW CAREER



There was a time when John Covert (BIMW '14) couldn't imagine earning a college degree – much less working toward another. Dyslexia runs in his family, and John was diagnosed with the learning disability at the age of 5. As a young student, the Binghamton-area native was placed in special education and went on to earn an Individualized Education Program diploma rather than the typical high school degree. Trained as a machinist, he spent a decade in the field – before he was laid off, twice, as the work headed overseas. But before he could enroll in college, he had to attain his General Education Diploma

(GED) – a process that took six months of studying. He wasn't able to obtain accommodations for his learning disability, but managed to pass the test. "The GED test was the hardest I've ever taken," he remembered.

Once at SUNY Broome, the Learning Assistance Department paid a crucial role in John's academic success. He was able to obtain alternative textbooks and note-takers who aided him in his classes each semester, as well as tutoring and extra time during tests. "I came back to school when I was 31," he recounted. "Thankfully, my teachers were outstanding. They helped me so much. I did well the first semester with the help of tutoring and the accommodations."

John graduated in June 2014 with a Business Information Management degree – and then went on to work for the Learning Assistance Department himself, aiding students with the alternative textbooks, text-to-speech programs for their computer and other accommodations that once aided him.

The next step: going back to school again, this time for a degree in assistive technology. "Three years ago, I had no idea what assistive technology was. I had no idea I would go beyond an associate degree," he said.



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1970s

Rev. Gordon D. Van Namee, PhD. (LA '70) is the author of *Discovering Your True Worth: Awakening New Possibilities*. He received his master's in Divinity from Emory University and his Doctorate of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He resides in Lake Park, Georgia.

Keith E. Johnson (CT '71) is Vice President at Haley and Aldrich, Inc., a firm specializing in geotechnical engineering and environmental science in Boston, Massachusetts.

Linda S. (Tucker) Roody (RN '71) recently retired from NYS OTDA where she was responsible for adjudicating Social Security claims. She now spends time in Florida and Oneida Lake, New York and maintains a residence in Port Crane, New York.

Theresa (Walsh) Mayhew (LA '74) is currently serving as Vice President of Public Affairs for the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. She lives in Rensselaer, New York.

Thomas J. Karl (BT '76) is an attorney and CEO/President of Physicians Choice Management which owns, manages and operates kidney dialysis centers nationally. He and his wife Marina, also an attorney, reside in Newton Square, Pennsylvania.

Mark R. Whalen (BA '77) was elected to a twelfth, two-year term on the Broome County Legislature. He also serves as Assistant Chief with the City of Binghamton Fire Department. He lives in Binghamton.

Maria Ilioff (RN '78) is an independent travel specialist owning and operating The Perfect Journey. She resides in Vestal, New York.

Diana L. Bortle (MT '79) is a surveyor of laboratories for COLA. She is a board member of the Florida Coast Chapter of the Clinical Laboratories Management Association (CLMA). She makes her home in Naples, Florida.

1980s

Pamela Barry (LT '80) has worked in the pharmaceutical business for 30 years. Currently she is Associate Director of Global Clinical QA for Teva, traveling to assist in bringing new and safe medicines across the globe. She resides in Wilmington, Delaware.

Richard A. Hefft (BC '80) has been retired from the Owego Apalachin School District since 2005. He resides in Johnson City, New York.

Fred C. Shaheen (ET '80) has three children – oldest daughter Katharine is completing her Master's in Education at St. Bonaventure University, daughter Kimberly is a junior at Binghamton University and son Kevin is a junior at Seton Catholic Central High School. He lives in Endwell, New York.

Neil M. Green (ET '81) is a Facility Security Officer for the F35 program at Lockheed Martin Patuxent River Naval Air Station Facility. He resides in Waldorf, Maryland.

Gary R. Ryman (FS '81) is the author of the novel *Mayday! Firefighter Down*. He has a bachelor's degree in Fire Science Management from the University of Maryland and a master's in American History from American Military University. The second of three generations of firefighters, he resides in Scott Township, Pennsylvania.

Alan P. Kriesel (BA '83) is a Project Manager at Pratt and Whitney and lives in Bedford, Texas. He says hello to SUNY Broome alumni living in the Dallas/Fort Worth area – wondering if they miss the colorful autumns and spiedies as much as he does.

James W. Zipay (ET '83) is a professor and Program Director of Renewable Energy Engineering at Oregon Institute of Technology. He lives in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Francis A. Berry (MO '74/BA '85) has been a Principal Account Clerk for the Department of Social Services in Tioga County, New York, for 21 years. She has four grandchildren and resides in Apalachin, New York.

Mary Ellen Segedi (OT '87) and her husband, George, reside in Apalachin, New York and have two grown children and three grandchildren.

1990s

Todd M. Balan (ISAS '90) joined Polaris in July 2009 as Vice President-Corporate Development. Prior to joining Polaris, he was Director of Marketing and Strategy for United Technologies Fire & Security Business from 2007 to June 2009. He resides in Wayzata, Minnesota.

William L. Davis (ISMH '96) founded the Hands of Christian Ministry in 1979. He has his bachelor's from LeMoyné College and his MSW from Marywood University. He specialized in critical incident response, debriefing and counseling. He is now a community volunteer and resides in Binghamton.

Nancy Hirst (LA '96/EC '04) is retired, but still subs at the Jewish Community Center and is a fire department auxiliary member. She lives in Port Crane, New York.

2000s

Eric T. Kollar (LAAA '02) is an Engineering Planner Associate at Lockheed Martin in Owego, New York. He plans to graduate from SUNY Potsdam this spring with a degree in Speech Communications. He fondly remembers his days on the Broome campus where he was active in student government, worked in the athletics office and was a soccer player who was named student athlete of the year for 2002. He lives in Binghamton.

Kristine A. deVente (BUPL '04) recently received recognition as an ACCORD mediator for her 5 years of service and as a 25-year volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) – she is proud to be the “oldest” CASA in Broome and Tioga Counties. She resides in Binghamton.

Joelle Meyn (ISAS '05/PTA '09) is currently an adjunct instructor in the Health Science Division at SUNY Broome, teaching for four years in the Medical Assisting and Health Information Technology department. She is a physical therapist assistant at Robert Packer Hospital and resides in Binghamton.

Kevin D. Selby (BUBA '14) is a detailer for Gerdau Ameristeel. He lives in Cornelius, North Carolina.

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SHAPING THE COLLEGE: HONORING DEAN EMERITUS GEORGE HIGGINBOTTOM

Photo: Artist David Zeggert (left) and George Higginbottom stand with the portrait that will hang in Titchener Hall.

Retired since 2005, George Higginbottom no longer lectures on history in SUNY Broome's classrooms, or sits down with faculty to help shape the campus' direction. But while the former Dean of Liberal Arts is now living in Cape Cod with wife Anne, he's left an indelible imprint on SUNY Broome.

And now the popular dean's actual image will remain as well. During a reception in his honor last October, his former colleagues unveiled a painting of him that will hang in Titchener Hall, the home of the Liberal Arts division. "He is an enormous influence on us intellectually and in other ways," said Professor Emeritus Dr. Richard Romano, who hired Higginbottom when he chaired the History and Social Science department.

The educator started out teaching history and government at the high school level from 1965 to 1968, and then taught history, government and philosophy at SUNY Broome from 1971 until 2005. Higginbottom chaired the History and Government department from 1972 to 1975, and served as the Dean of Liberal Arts from 1975 to 2002.

In the 1980s, he initiated a campus-wide discussion of general education that resulted in a major reformulation of the general education program at the College. This program attracted national attention and was selected as a model by several national publications. As a result of this activity, the dean was sought after as a consultant and committee member at both the state and national levels. Higginbottom is also the author of several publications on general/civic education.

Higginbottom earned a B.A. in economics from Harvard College; M.A. from San Francisco State University in U.S. History; MPhil from Syracuse University in Latin American and U.S. History; and a Ph.D. from Cornell University in Educational Foundations and Curriculum. He also did other graduate study work at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Vermont and the University of New Hampshire.

Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Francis Battisti (BT '68) – who was hired in the same year as Higginbottom – remembered discussions on education with Higginbottom. While they didn't always agree, the conversations were always worthwhile. "It's interesting to have a disagreement with someone, but to feel so valued by them," Battisti said.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, community colleges across the country were growing rapidly and adding staff. The Liberal Arts program began in 1962 – and not without opposition. Several county officials at the time opposed the

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move, saying it would remove women from their proper sphere in the home. "It's not a joke. It's true," said Romano, who joined SUNY Broome in the 1960s.

When previous department chairman Harold Hickey became dean, Romano needed to hire faculty to teach Hickey's history course load – in two weeks' time. After cold-calling several university history departments, he received a recommendation from Syracuse University: George Higginbottom. Romano agreed to meet him. The future dean "was wearing sandals and looked like he was just out of Berkeley – which he was," he quipped.

As a department chair and later dean, Higginbottom kept his office open for both students and faculty members, and was known for his sincerity and compassion. During his tenure, the college developed a childcare center, the Ice Center, the Applied Technologies building and the Decker Health Sciences building, noted current Liberal Arts Dean Michael Kinney. "This place, George, is you, from the buildings you've helped construct to the programs you've helped support to the people you helped actualize," he told Higginbottom at the reception.

Higginbottom's talents went beyond teaching, scholarship and his duties as a dean. An All-American hockey player at Harvard, he carried over his love of the game to SUNY Broome, where he started the first men's hockey team in 1975. He continued as hockey coach, with the assistance of Harold Sunshine and David Michalak (PE '75), until 1986. Off campus, the dean also was active in the community, serving on local boards that included the Broome County Arena.

Michalak joined that first team himself when it formed, and became assistant coach a few years later after returning to the College to work. In the days when basketball was king, it took five years for ice hockey to become a varsity sport, a goal that Higginbottom had worked toward.

When Higginbottom decided to step down as coach, he passed the torch to Michalak, but agreed to work as assistant coach to ease the transition. He was an innovative strategist, Michalak said. "I learned everything about strategy on Wendy's napkins when we went out to lunch," he said. But Higginbottom's interest in the players went beyond the ice. He advised students in the locker room to keep them on track academically, and checked in with them at midterms.

For David Zeggert, Assistant Professor of Art and Design, the oil painting was a labor of love. When he moved into his neighborhood, Higginbottom was moving out – and sold him a sofa and loveseat. Zeggert had a chance to view the retired dean's art collection, and the two talked.

Keeping Higginbottom's love of art in mind, Zeggert added little touches to the painting that revealed its construction, from a small area showing the original coat of paint to drawing lines. While creating the process was labor-intensive, he found it enjoyable, he said.

Higginbottom offered his colleagues his deepest gratitude for their generosity. "As dean, I had enormous pride in the talents of the faculty. What a marvelous faculty and how deeply that affected the lives of our students!" he told them. "You guys were terrific and still are."

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OFFICIALS BREAK GROUND ON SOUTHERN TIER HIGH-TECH INCUBATOR

For a groundbreaking of this magnitude, a shovel hardly seemed adequate. Instead, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer raised a blaze-orange flag and the backhoe behind him roared into life. At his side, SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm, Binghamton University President Harvey Stenger, NYS Senator Thomas Libous (BT '73), NYS Assembly members Donna Lupardo and Clifford Crouch, Broome County Executive Debbie Preston (BUMM '00) and Binghamton Mayor Richard David watched as the machine officially broke ground for the Southern Tier High Technology Incubator.

"This incubator is going to transform our whole Southern Tier economy," Schumer said during the October 2014 groundbreaking ceremony. The \$19 million project includes \$6 million in NYSUNY 2020 funding allocated to SUNY Broome for the creation of the SUNY Bridge to Entrepreneurial Excellence (SUNY-BEE), which will nurture a vibrant start-up community for student-led ventures. SUNY-BEE has added an entire new floor to the building, Dr. Stenger said.

"This will help our current students, as well as students from other colleges," said Dr. Drumm, adding that enterprising high school students may also play a role. "You never know where the next great idea is going to come from." New student companies that are formed in the SUNY-BEE space in the incubator are eligible to participate in START-UP NY and be eligible for exemption from all state taxes.

The 33,000-square-foot incubator will house 12 to 15 companies, and facilities for research and development. But innovation needn't wait until the incubator opens in Fall 2016. Five companies are already lined up to move into the incubator and are working in smaller campus spaces now, Schumer said.

The incubator will be built at Hawley and Carroll streets just outside downtown Binghamton, in a neighborhood that Binghamton Mayor

Photo Credit: Jonathan W. Cohen/Binghamton University

Richard David describes as "transitioning." The dilapidated buildings that once stood there have been demolished and the land donated to the project by Broome County.

In addition to the \$6 million awarded to SUNY Broome, other funding sources include \$7 million in New York State Regional Economic Development Council funds awarded to Binghamton University and \$2 million each from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the Broome County Industrial Development Agency and the SUNY Research Foundation. "This has been a complicated project, but complicated in a good way," said Stenger, pointing to the multiple partners that led to its incubator's creation.

Combined with private sector interest, the NYSUNY 2020 grant realizes an economic impact of \$33 million, with an overall estimated impact of \$132 million for the incubator project as a whole, creating an additional 906 jobs over a nine-year period. On top of these efforts, SUNY-BEE will enable the addition of 18 more companies over nine years, each creating a total of five jobs for a total of 114 additional jobs and an estimated \$33 million in economic impact.

The Incubator will bring more than jobs, pointed out Senator Libous. Rather, it will spawn careers – well-paying ones that will keep SUNY Broome and Binghamton University graduates in the area and provide opportunities for the middle class.

The project will help foster the entrepreneurial spirit that helped the region grow in the first place, said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo. Both she and Broome County Executive Debbie Preston pointed out that firms such as Endicott-Johnson, Singer-Link and IBM began here. "One word has made this valley great and that word is innovation," Preston said.



VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER: A THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE

On Veterans Day 2014, SUNY Broome celebrated the opening of its new Veterans Resource Center. Located in the Student Services Building, it provides a place where veterans can go if they need help navigating their educational benefits or other issues, meet with peer advisors and socialize with each other in a safe and supportive environment. The center is equipped with computer and printer stations to assist in research and homework assignments.

"Statistics show that if we help veterans transition from the military to college life, they are more successful in their academic careers," said SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm. Veterans can feel out of place when they return to civilian life, especially if they have spent years away from the classroom, Drumm noted. Having a space to themselves – where they can focus on academics and connect with others who have undergone similar experiences – can make a difference.

Broome County provided 80 percent of the funding for the project, with additional support from Lockheed Martin and the College picking up the remainder. "It's been one of my priorities to do everything possible for our veterans," said Broome County Executive Debbie Preston (BUMM '00), a SUNY Broome graduate whose husband and family members have served in the armed forces. "We want to provide them with every opportunity to succeed after their service in the military."

SUNY Broome owes its existence to veterans, who were given access to education thanks to the G.I. Bill. After the end of World War II, New York State developed five Institutes of Applied Arts and Sciences, which later became the core of the new community college

system. Broome was among those five, the very first community colleges in the State. The G.I. Bill ultimately transformed the world of higher education, President Drumm noted. "Before then, mostly wealthy 18-year-olds went to college," he said.

Sully Shoemaker (LAGS-EDU '16) is one of approximately 95 students using veterans' education benefits at SUNY Broome. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, she served in Okinawa, Japan, from 2008 to 2012. A native of Fairfax, Virginia, she wasn't a star student in her youth and graduated high school a year late. In joining the military, she was inspired by her sister, who was in Air Force training when the September 11 terrorist attacks took place.

"I joined because I wanted to make something of myself," she said, noting that she met her husband – also a Marine and a veteran of Afghanistan – in Japan. He now works as a Binghamton firefighter and the two have a young child.

As a petite woman, Shoemaker acknowledges that she might not fit the image most people have of a Marine. When her husband wears his Marine Corps sweatshirt in town, passersby often thank him for his service – not realizing that his wife also served.

But while she might not receive a show of appreciation from strangers, she is grateful for the Veterans Resource Center and the services it provides. On Veterans Day she offered her thanks to all those who made it possible. "I accept the Veterans Office as my token of appreciation," she said. "These generous individuals are what make the country great."



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