APC Bulletin

The Commencement Edition

Providing Graduates with a Solid Foundation to Achieve Career Success

Jamestown Business College Celebrates its 130th Commencement Ceremony

On Sat., June 4, 104 students graduated in Jamestown Business College's (JBC) 130th commencement ceremony. Included in this year's commencement was JBC's inaugural class graduating from its new Salamanca location. During the commencement, 10 graduates were honored from JBC's Salamanca campus.

Kayla Gilkinson and Corinne Van Every received their associate degrees during Jamestown Business College's 2016 commencement, which was held on Sat., June 4, at the First Lutheran Church, Jamestown.

In the fall of 2013, JBC established a partnership agreement with the Seneca Nation and began offering an associate degree in Business Administration on Seneca territory in Salamanca. Currently at this location, students are able to select courses in marketing and management, hospitality and medical administration. The convenient location and schedule are motivating many young adults to pursue their education.

Katrina Ray, a 2016 JBC graduate said, "If it weren't for Jamestown Business College and the Seneca Nation's collaboration, I never would have been able to go back to school."

The evening and weekend year-round schedule allows students to maintain full-time employment while pursuing their degree. And the continuous schedule allows students who take one course at a time to graduate in two years. JBC also provides students training in soft skills, such as proper etiquette, goal-setting, leadership, accountability and ethics, to increase their marketability.

Salamanca graduate Mary Anderson shared some of

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Proud Heritage in New York

The Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC) is comprised of 16 member colleges, which employ roughly 6,500 people on 28 campuses across the state, serving more than 35,000 students pursuing associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.

Seven of the 16 APC member colleges are more than 100 years old.

her thoughts regarding the staff and faculty: "Brenda Salemme, director of admissions, is the friendliest person. She bent over backwards to help me during the application process. And I can't say enough about President David Conklin and Dean Pamela Reese."

"They were always more than willing to talk to me. One of the teachers, Mr. Todd Melquist, was the best teacher I've ever had! I can't thank them enough for their support."

JBC is very proud of its students' success. Many students from Salamanca have been inspired to continue their education. Two graduates are currently pursuing their bachelor's degrees at St. Bonaventure University. Additionally, at students' requests, JBC will offer its bachelor's degree program in Salamanca beginning in the fall.

From Left: Jamestown Business College Dean of General Education, Pamela Reese stands with 2016 graduate Jessica Crouse. Jessica was one of 10 graduates honored from Jamestown Business College's Salamanca campus. She received an associate degree of Applied Science in Business Administration with a hospitality management focus.

Making a Difference for New York's Students

90 percent of students attending APC member colleges are from New York.

Of those students, **90 percent** stay in New York to live and work.

72 percent of graduates find jobs in their field of study within six months of graduation.

Students Celebrate Plaza's 99th Graduation Ceremony

On Sat., June 11, students were joined by faculty, administration, staff and family to celebrate Plaza College's 99th graduation ceremony. Held at Queens College, the ceremony honored more than 250 students receiving their associate and bachelor's degrees.

More than 1,000 Students Graduate from Bryant & Stratton College

Spring of 2016 marked the 159th graduation season for Bryant & Stratton College. The college was proud to have more than 1,000 students participate in commencement ceremonies across the state: in Albany, Syracuse, Rochester and western New York.

Bryant & Stratton College in the Capital Region celebrated commencement on May 7 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara delivered the commencement address. This year's program included Deborah Scarborough, mother of 2016 Bryant & Stratton student speaker, Shawnta Nicole Scarborough, both pictured below right. Deborah delivered a moving address outlining the tremendous health challenges her daughter struggled with, and prevailed over, to complete her degree. Shawnta graduated magna cum laude with her associate degree in Medical Administrative Assisting. She was also selected for Who's Who in American Junior Colleges.

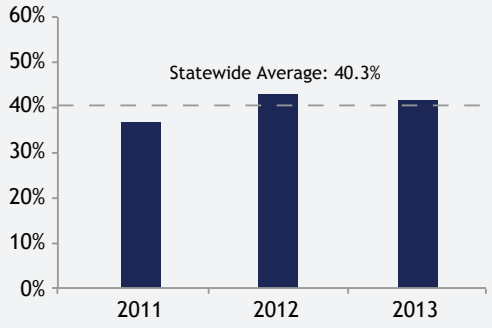
Pictured: Bryant & Stratton's graduating class at the Oncenter in Syracuse. News Channel 9 Anchor Dan Cummings delivered the commencement address to nearly 300 students and their families.

Successful at Graduating Students On-Time

New York's proprietary colleges have increased their on-time graduation rates by nearly five percent, since 2011.

APC member colleges conferred 8,695 certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in the 2013-2014 academic year. Of those, 918 were master's and doctorate degrees.

On-Time Bachelor Degree Graduation Rates for Proprietary Students, 2011-2013



Source: NYS Education Department, 2014 Data

APC Elects New Board Leadership

David Conklin, president of Jamestown Business College, to preside over the association

New York's Association of Propriety Colleges (APC), the only state organization that exclusively represents degree-granting proprietary colleges, has elected a new chairman and vice chairman as of June 20.

David Conklin, of Jamestown, will serve as chairman of the association's board of trustees. He will succeed Stephen J. Jerome, president of Monroe College in the Bronx and Westchester County, who served as chairman since 1991. Jerome will share his experience and ensure a smooth transition by remaining on the board as chairman emeritus.

"I am honored by the great confidence that my board colleagues have expressed in me," said Conklin. "Under Stephen Jerome's leadership, APC has realized significant achievement.

"Since the association's inception in 1978, Jerome has played an integral role, in particular in petitioning the New York Board of Regents to establish and recognize APC as an equal partner with the other sectors of higher education in New York state, including public and independent non-profit colleges.

"Today, we have a tremendous opportunity to continue moving forward by cultivating a greater public awareness of APC member colleges and our commitment to providing students with a quality education and the supportive services they need for long-term success."

Jamestown Business College was founded in 1886. Conklin has been with the institution for 33 years, beginning his career as an instructor. Professionally active, he has served as a member of an accreditation evaluation team for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. He also is trained as an evaluator for the New York State Education Department and is a member of the Business Educators Research Associates (BERA).

Conklin received his bachelor's degree from the University at Buffalo and holds a master's degree from the State University of New York at Fredonia.

In addition, APC elected Charles E. Callahan III, provost of Plaza College, to serve as vice chair of the board. Callahan has more than 40 years of experience in higher education, playing a direct role in the advancement of Plaza College. In 1982, Callahan was instrumental in securing authorization from the New York State Board of Regents, enabling Plaza College to confer the associate degree. Plaza College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and now offers both baccalaureate and associate degrees.

The College of Westchester Holds its 100th Commencement Ceremony

On Thurs., May 26, 356 students crossed the stage to receive their degrees during The College of Westchester's 100th commencement ceremony. Held at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, Harry Alford, president and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, delivered the keynote address.

Learn more about The College of Westchester from the graduates themselves in the following graduation day video: https://youtu.be/cVskHDQwkiM

Student Chantae Muschett pauses a moment for a photograph as she readies to walk across the stage and graduate at The College of Westchester's 100th Commencement Ceremony. Muschett received a baccalaureate degree in business administration.

Berkeley College Awards More than 2,300 Diplomas at Graduation Ceremony

On April 29, 2016, Berkeley College awarded degrees and certificates to more than 2,300 graduates during its 2016 commencement ceremony at Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. The graduating class included 140 military and veteran students and 200 international students. More than 800 students graduated with honors and nearly 400 students earned their degrees online.

"We live in a time where there are many great needs," Michael J. Smith, president of Berkeley College, told the graduates. "There are people who can use your help. The universe is waiting for all your great works. I'm counting on each and every one of you to make good things happen."

In honor of the college's 85th anniversary year, Mildred

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García, EdD, president of California State University, Fullerton, delivered the commencement address and received an honorary Doctor of Pedagogy degree. Dr. García served as the first system-wide president of Berkeley College from 2001 through 2007. She spoke about her educational journey from the projects in Brooklyn to become the first Latina chief executive in the largest system of public higher education in the United States.

"I have indeed had to fight, using my mind, my heart, determination and, above all, my education to get to where I am today," Dr. García said. "But it is my hope, as it was my parents' hope before me, that through my battles and victories the path for students like you will be riddled with fewer obstacles and many more opportunities."

For Farzeena Khan-Ravidatt, a Degree from Berkeley College Means a Brighter Future for Her Family

Farzeena Khan-Ravidatt said she realized her need, and the importance of a college education, when she looked at her children. That's when the mother of three saw the need to invest in her family's future.

"Growing up, my parents worked hard to give my brother and me the best life possible. I want to be able to do the same for my kids," said the resident of South Ozone Park in Queens.

Khan-Ravidatt attended classes at Berkeley College in Brooklyn, Midtown Manhattan, and through Berkeley College Online. She graduated from Berkeley College in May with an A.A.S. in Health Services Administration – Medical Insurance, Billing and Coding. She recently completed an internship at New York Community Hospital, receiving hands-on training in both human resources and

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Empowering and Supporting Students to Ensure Success

APC member colleges create opportunities to help educationally disadvantaged and minority students, thrive and graduate.

This includes offering small class sizes, which provide a more attentive learning environment; internship programs, which energize students by putting them in real work settings; and remedial programs, which help students acclimate to the pace and demands of college study.

health information as part of her degree requirement.

"It has been a great experience," Khan-Ravidatt said. "I was able to learn about hospital policy and procedures, and all the ins and outs of medical records, from assembling charts to scanning and coding procedures."

Michele Figueroa, Berkeley College Career Counselor, said the hospital was lucky to have someone like Khan-Ravidatt in their ranks.

"Farzeena is a shining example of how dedicated our Berkeley College students are to their families and their education," Figueroa said.

According to Khan-Ravidatt, she always dreamed of working in the healthcare field. She plans to continue her education and pursue a bachelor's degree at Berkeley College – an achievement she hopes will open doors to a position as a healthcare administrator.

"Farzeena is an excellent student," said LaToya Trowers-Bell, Ed.D., Health Services, Berkeley College Larry L. Luing School of Business. "I have seen her develop academically over time and she continues to strive for excellence in her studies."

In April 2016, Khan-Ravidatt was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society for high-achieving students pursuing two-year degrees. She said education is a key to a bright future for her children.

"Success means being able to provide for my family," she said. "It means being able to give them the best life possible."

Edison Jaquez (center) receives the Alumni of the Year award. Pictured (L to R) are Dr. García; Kevin L. Luing, board chairman; Mr. Jaquez; Michael Iris, Senior Director, Alumni Relations and Online Career Services; and Michael J. Smith, president of Berkeley College.

Flag Flown Over U.S. Capitol in Recognition of LIM College Commencement

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at LIM College's 2016 Commencement ceremony at Carnegie Hall on May 25, arranged to have a flag flown over the Capitol that day in honor of LIM College and its graduates. The flag was part of the Capitol Flag Program, which dates back to 1937. Over the years the program has gradually expanded to encompass the commemoration of national holidays and various special events, as well as to honor the work of groups such as schools and civic organizations.

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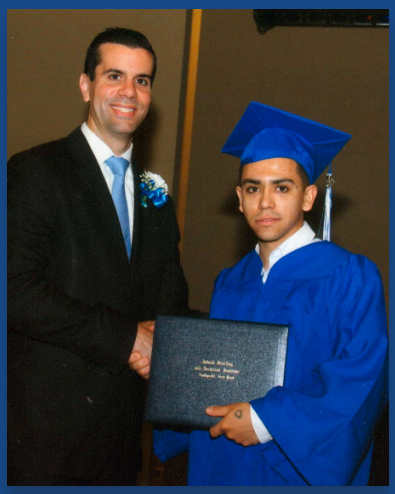
Flags are flown year-round, weather permitting, excluding Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. After being flown over the U.S. Capitol, LIM College's flag was issued a keepsake Certificate of Authenticity by the Architect of the Capitol.

Prior to the ceremony Congresswoman Maloney said, "Under the leadership of its extraordinary president, Elizabeth Marcuse, LIM College continues a proud tradition of educating students to take on a diverse range of roles in the fashion industry.

LIM's success in placing its graduates in prominent positions on the business side of fashion, and its frequent inclusion among lists of the best fashion schools in the world, speaks volumes about the effectiveness of their programs. I am deeply grateful to be receiving an honorary degree from LIM."

LIM College held its commencement for 479 students on Wed., May 25 at Carnegie Hall. Of the graduating class, 158 earned master's degrees; 310 earned their bachelor's and 11 received their associate degrees.



Pictured above: New York State Senator Michael Venditto congratulates Island Drafting and Technical Institute Class of 2016 graduate, David Yarce, on a job well done. Island Drafting and Technical Institute's commencement ceremony took place on Thurs., May 12 at the Dominican Village in Amityville. More than 275 graduates, guests and staff attended the event. David received an Associate's Degree in Computer Aided Drafting and Design.

2,700 Receive Degrees at Monroe College's 83rd Commencement

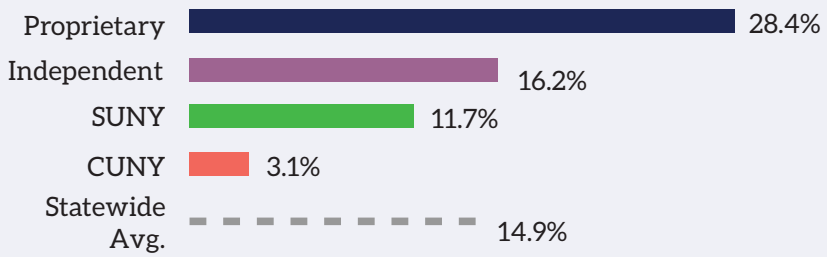
More than 40 countries were represented by the 2,700 students receiving associate, bachelor's or master's degrees and professional certificates. In addition to students from the U.S. Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, members of the Monroe College Class of 2016 included sizable contingents from the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, St. Lucia and Vietnam.

Two separate ceremonies were held to accommodate the large number of friends and family members who came to witness and celebrate this milestone day in their loved one's life. The Hon. Kathie E. Davidson, Supervising Judge of the 9th Judicial District Family Courts, and Gustavo Rivera, New York State Senator for the 33rd District, were the keynote speakers.

By the end of the second ceremony, Monroe conferred a total of 253 master's degrees; 1,197 bachelor's degrees; and 1,212 associate degrees and 38 professional certificates.

Exceptional Associate Degree Graduation Rates

On-Time Associate Degree Graduation Rates for All Students, 2013



Source: NYS Education Department, 2014 Data

New York's proprietary colleges have the highest graduation rate for full-time students earning associate level degrees.

This year's commencement exercises were especially meaningful for Monroe President Stephen J. Jerome as 2016 marks his 50th year with the college. He and Marc Jerome, executive vice president, welcomed students and their families with opening remarks that were heartfelt and, at times, humorous, and spoke to their great pride in the students' accomplishments and best wishes for continued personal and professional success. Later in the ceremony, both would have the honor of shaking hands with the graduates as they crossed before beaming faculty and deans on the commencement stage.

The School of Visual Arts 2016 commencement exercises were held on May 18, 2016, at Radio City Music Hall. Visionary photographer Carrie Mae Weems was the 2016 Commencement speaker.

SVA PresidentDavid Rhodes conferred on more than 1,100 bachelor's and master's degree candidates in SVA's 2016 graduation class.

Christina M. Faraj (pictured left, below) delivered the Bachelor's Degree Candidate's Address to the SVA Class of 2016. Serious about her career goals at an early age, Faraj worked three jobs in high school so she could enroll in SVA's precollege program. And she's been working non-stop ever since.

She recently won a coveted summer internship with Pixar Animation Studios, which paved the way for a full time position with the studio.

Five Towns College held its 42nd commencement on Sat., May 21, at Half Hollow Hills High School East in Dix Hills.

A total of 166 students graduated. fifteen associate degrees, 142 bachelor's degrees, seven master's degrees, two doctorates were awarded.

Meet the Professor

Charles Campbell, Ph.D., Bryant & Stratton College, Buffalo NY

Liberal Arts Faculty

- Chair, Buffalo Campus English Committee
- Managing Editor Student Newspaper
- Recording Artist

Education:
B.A. in Communications, Lee University
M.A. in English Literature, Creative Writing, and Composition Rhetoric from Eastern Kentucky University
Ph.D. in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Writers

How did you come to Bryant & Stratton College?
After completing my Ph.D. in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Writers, I courted several colleges and universities to find the right fit for me. Upon my visit to the Buffalo Campus, I found Bryant & Stratton College to be especially appealing. It offered various opportunities to work with nontraditional students, within a curriculum that was sensitive to and reflective of diverse learning styles and cultural backgrounds. Being a first-generation college student from an under-represented background, it was important that I found my niche to give back what higher education had given me.

What is your favorite class to teach and why? Naturally, I'm a writing teacher, so I gravitate to the classes that allow me to express my love for the written word. I especially enjoy teaching developmental composition courses and early research and writing courses. Conversations naturally brought about by these courses are rich with creativity, collaborative learning and multidirectional communication.

My sense is that often good thinking and good writing are linked. Writers are continuously discovering and rediscovering themselves through writing. I am happiest working in an environment where I can truly listen to students. A writing course is great place to do this. In fact, it is possibly one of the only spaces a student, who feels they may not have a true voice in the world around them, cannot be interrupted. For me that is important because it speaks to the social and cultural purpose of teaching.

How have the rapid advances in technology, including social media such as Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat, influenced the classroom? As an instructor, it's important to support and encourage different communication methods (visual, print, digital, sound, multimodal, performance) to strengthen a student's learning.

Students can learn a lot from social media; however, I believe it is important to have a discussion about what is credible information. Credible information must be analytically broken down and critically thought about if we are to use it in the classroom. If used correctly, forms of social media can be incredibly beneficial to motivating students in and outside the classroom.

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When you are not at Bryant & Stratton, where can you be found? Outside of Bryant & Stratton College, I am a promoter, editor, publisher and recording artist (a rapper) for Deep Thinka Records in Buffalo. My album, "More Die of Heartbreak," received positive press from national media outlets, such as the Huffington Post, The Source and Young Hollywood.

For live performances, I combine with a live band with a full horn section to make Chuckie Campbell & The Phaction. We provide a dynamic, powerful and eclectic approach to hip hop. Recently, we won Canalside Buffalo's Battle of the Bands for the opportunity to play in front of a record breaking crowd of more than 15,000. And later this year, I will release my next album, "Taking Back Tomorrow."

Which three people (famous or otherwise) would you most likely invite to be a guest speaker in your classroom.

- Jim Carrey
- Cornel West
- Denzel Washington

Two truths and a lie:

- Assaulted in a street fight by my best friend and music mentor resulting in facial reconstruction surgery and the inability to perform music for almost seven years.
- Played four years of basketball for Lee University.
- Performed at the Grammy Awards.

A book found on your nightstand:
"The Unbearable Lightness of Being" by Milan Kundera.

Berkeley College Inaugurates Michael J. Smith as Third System-Wide President

Berkeley College inaugurated its third system-wide president, Michael J. Smith, on May 13, 2016.

Nearly 1,000 family and friends, colleagues, faculty, staff, business and elected officials gathered under a large tent set upon the grounds for the occasion.

Smith began his tenure as president in June 2015 and set out to tour all Berkeley College campuses in New York and New Jersey, and the offices of Berkeley College Online on his first day. He also committed to attending 52 classes in 52 weeks to experience the Berkeley College student perspective firsthand.

"I learned so much from my 52 classes that even after being with Berkeley College for 20 years, I learned more about us and our students and our teachers than any other humanly imaginable way," said Smith. "I consider myself very fortunate to have had this opportunity to learn in this manner."