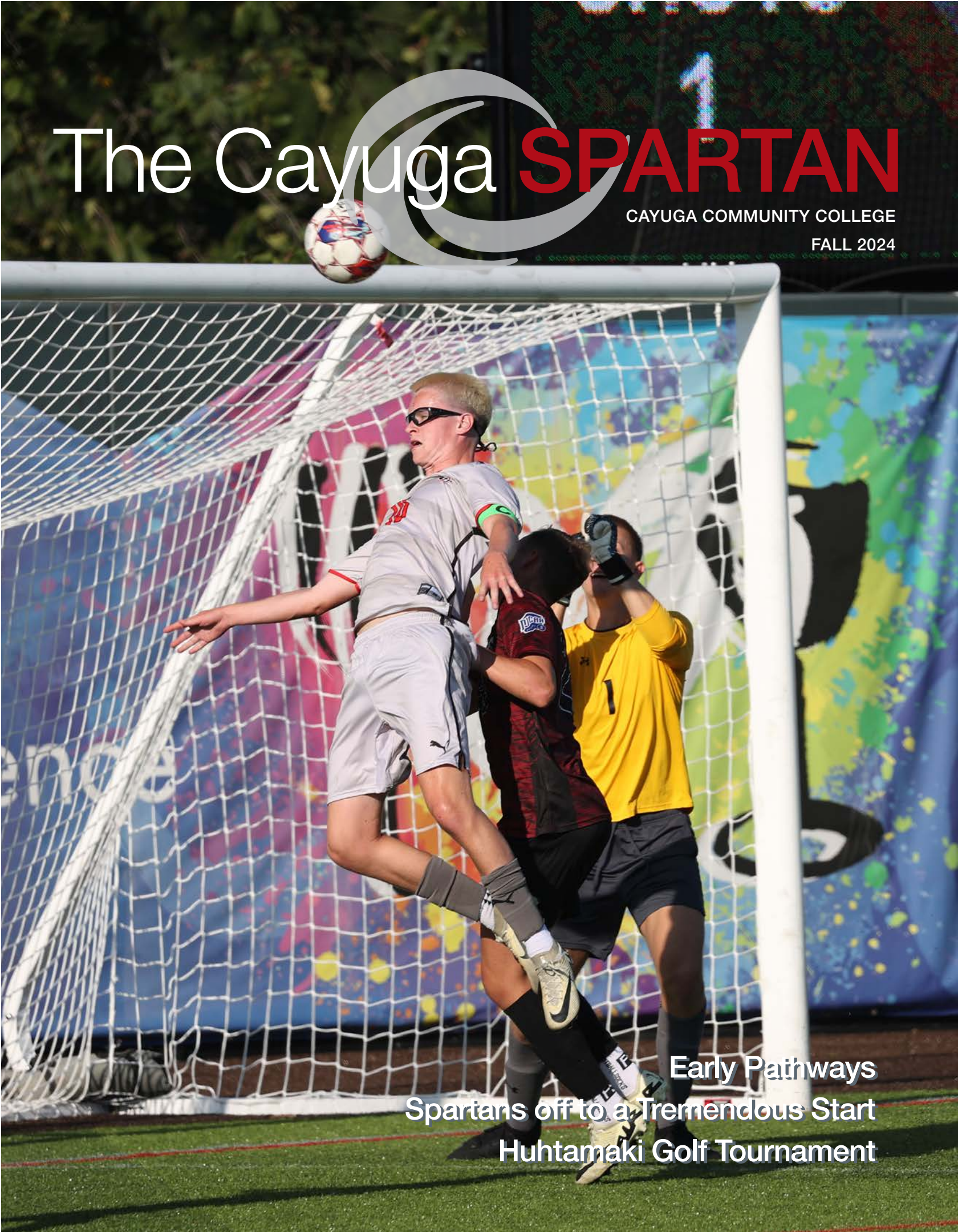


# The Cayuga SPARTAN

CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2024



Early Pathways  
Spartans off to a Tremendous Start  
Huhtamaki Golf Tournament

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we assemble this edition of *The Spartan*, the Fall 2024 semester is underway and students are back in the classroom. It's always an exciting time of year. It reminds us of the energy our students bring to their education and career plans, and of the importance of our role in helping them cultivate their skills. Their success is why we're here each day.

This has been a remarkable year for Cayuga. Work is nearing completion on several important capital projects that emphasize our role in the community. Both the Workforce Development Center in Auburn and the Oswego County Regional Police Academy should be completed in 2024-25 and will provide excellent resources and training. We should have updates on those projects in a future edition of *The Spartan*.

In May, Cayuga and the City of Auburn enjoyed hosting the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III World Series at Falcon Park. This is the first time the field has hosted the World Series, and it was a terrific example of the strength of

our partnership with the City and a showcase for what Falcon Park has become. Details on this experience are included in these pages, and we're already planning for the World Series to return to Auburn in 2025.

We're also excited to announce a new initiative: our Early College Pathways. This is a remarkable program that builds on our existing K-12 Partnership Program to connect high school students to college courses so they can earn credits toward a specific degree. This direct, fair approach to ensuring students and their families have the information they need to make informed decisions about college is essential in today's education landscape, and one I'm proud to share with you.

Your unwavering confidence in Cayuga is an important factor in the successes of our institution and our ability to help our students follow their passions to a career. Thank you for all you do to support us. I wish you a happy, successful fall and holiday season, and I look forward to sharing more updates with you in 2025.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Brian M. Durant  
President



## ABOUT THE COVER

Jake Botterill is now Cayuga's top all-time goal scorer with 67, tallying 31 goals in 2023 and 36 more this season. The center midfielder led NJCAA Division III in goals in 2023, and is again leading in 2024.

## SPARTAN NEWS CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors: Guy Thomas Cosentino, Kia Larsen, Andrew Poole, Alissa Calandra  
Graphic Design: Terry Askey-Cole, Askey Design & Illustration  
Publication: Jacobs Press, David Verdi '06



# Cayuga Welcomes Three New Trustees

Cayuga Community College welcomed a new student trustee, a long-time local leader in education and an author and publisher currently serving her second term in the Cayuga County Legislature as the newest members of the College’s Board of Trustees this year.

Cayuga County District 8 Legislator Heidi Nightengale, Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD) Superintendent Jeffrey Pirozzolo, and new Student Trustee Hannah Iozzio were all sworn-in over the past year, bringing a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to Cayuga’s Board of Trustees.

Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant and Board of Trustees Chair Tony Franceschelli welcomed the new trustees, saying they offer valuable perspectives through their leadership, energy and experience in education.



“Heidi and Jeff both have vast experience in education, but from different perspectives and roles in local and higher education. Hannah recently joined our Board, and has already demonstrated a strong understanding of the work we do and does an excellent job representing our students,” said Dr. Durant. “I look forward to working closely with them to enhance opportunities for our students and the community.”

“Hannah, Heidi and Jeff are welcome additions to our Board of Trustees. They bring with them an excellent combination of educational experience and a respect for our College’s role in Cayuga and Oswego counties, said Franceschelli. “We’re excited to hear their ideas and approach to serving our students and communities.”

Ms. Iozzio started taking courses at Cayuga in the Spring 2024 semester, and is currently majoring in Liberal Arts & Sciences: Humanities & Social Sciences. A graduate of Red Creek High School, she’s a volunteer firefighter and is hoping to eventually join Cayuga’s Nursing Program. “I wanted to get a complete appreciation and understanding of student life and opportunities at Cayuga, and I thought the best way to do that was to run to be our Student Trustee,” she said. “I’m looking forward to representing students and trying to give them a better understanding of how our College operates, so they can build a stronger connection with Cayuga.”



Legislator Nightengale, who holds a bachelor’s degree from Keuka College and a master’s degree from Cornell University, spent 25 years developing and administering programs for at-risk youth and families in Auburn and Cayuga County. She also taught at SUNY Empire’s College of Human Services for 20 years before retiring in 2022, and is an editor and partner for Clare Songbirds Publishing House. She’s published two children’s picture books and two chapbooks of poetry.

“I’m excited to join Cayuga’s Board of Trustees, and I’m eager to work on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives that create an environment for success in academic achievement, retention and graduation for first-generation students,” she said.

Pirozzolo joined AECSD almost two decades ago, and has been the district’s superintendent since July of 2015. He has also served as an assistant principal and assistant superintendent for personnel, and has announced his retirement from the District effective in 2025.

In joining the Board of Trustees, Pirozzolo complimented Cayuga’s commitment to the community and the opportunities it offers high school and college students.

“I’m happy to join the Cayuga Board of Trustees. The College is a gem in our county that provides so many opportunities for our students and young adults,” he said. “Our students are earning up to 50 college credits while in high school, which is allowing Auburn students to graduate a year early in many colleges.”

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## FROM THE FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Cayuga Community College starts its new Academic Year, both our Auburn and Fulton campuses are bustling with activity. The Foundation is thrilled to continue to support our College on a number of fronts from awards and scholarships to capital investments and special programs.

Since the last issue of *The Spartan*, the College Foundation has made major investments in Cayuga's students and its facilities. The first is the creation of the Early Pathways Scholarship Program that you can read about in this issue. The Foundation has committed at least \$250,000 to this new initiative promoted by President Brian Durant and Dr. Cathy Dotterer, Cayuga's Vice President for Student Affairs. The Foundation feels that it is vital to assist local students continue their education beyond high school, especially those who have already challenged themselves to earning college credits. As the enrollment landscape has changed, largely based on demographic shifts, especially in New York State, the Foundation wants to do everything it can to help increase enrollment at Cayuga. The Early Pathways Program targets the fastest growing sector of our student population and provides opportunities for our community.

At the end of last year, the College Foundation made a major capital commitment of over \$210,000 to the College's new Law Enforcement Academy going on the Fulton Campus that is also being supported by a \$400,000 commitment by the County of Oswego. At the end of August, the Foundation Board committed \$100,000 for site improvements at the new Workforce Development Center. This project, which will be located at the former Cornell Cooperative Extension Building in Auburn that has been

All the best,

Guy Cosentino  
*Executive Director*

supported by three long standing community investors already, The Fred L. Emerson Foundation, D.E. French Foundation and Stanley W. Metcalf Foundation. The Foundation believes these projects are important to the College, but just as importantly, the communities that we serve.

The Foundation continues to support our students with scholarships and awards and supporting such items, as covering the induction fees for our PTK Honor Society Members and our fun (and delicious) Food Truck Festivals to celebrate our students, faculty and staff at the beginning and end of each academic year in September and May.

We continue to fund special programs, such as having members of the College community, including students, faculty and staff attend the last Friends of the Central Library Lecture at the Onondaga County Civic Center, in May, with authors and artists Art Spiegelman the author of the two volume and Pulitzer-Prize winning "*Maus: A Survivor's Tale*", and Neil Gaiman, the author of "*American Gods*" and "*The Sandman*", as they talked about the creative process, censorship efforts and the joys and challenges of creating. It was a great experience for our Cayuga contingent, many of whom were able to bond over dinner beforehand. This success has led the Foundation to sponsor a second Friends' lecture trip to hear "*Lessons in Chemistry*" by author Bonnie Garmus, as part of a new book club effort – more about that in the next issue of *The Spartan*.

Finally, we are kicking off our 2024-2025 Annual Campaign, with a focus on continuing to help our students with emergency needs, in these pages. We hope you can continue to support the Foundation's efforts and commitment to Cayuga.



New PTK Inductees Tariana Gandy, Amy Mahoney, Jennette Powell, Prof. Krista Giglio, Haley Mosch, Julia Gislason, Grace Applebee and Jorge Jimenez

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY



Cayuga Community College's Omicron Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), our Honor Society, held its annual induction ceremony on our Auburn Campus on Wednesday, May 8th. Over 40 students were inducted this year. Provost Ronald Cantor congratulated those in attendance, which included family members and supporters of our students.

College Foundation Executive Director Guy Thomas Cosentino, presented the Miele /Fama Leadership Award to **PTK President Julia Gislason '24** and the Phi Theta Kappa Dean Norman F. Bourke Award to **Ariel Mead '24**. He also explained why the Foundation helps to underwrite the induction fees for PTK Members on the Auburn and Fulton campuses. This opportunity allows PTK members to compete for over \$250 million in awards and scholarships to transfer institutions, should they wish to further their education beyond Cayuga. This year the Foundation covered the induction fees for more than a dozen Cayuga students.



This event demonstrated the academic excellence of Cayuga's students. We are very proud of their academic achievements and look forward to following their academic and professional careers.

# CAYUGA HONORS CLASS OF 2024 AT FALCON PARK

Cayuga Community College celebrated its Class of 2024 this spring, with College leaders recognizing graduates for their accomplishments and encouraging them to achieve their full potential in the following years.

College President Dr. Brian Durant and Board of Trustees Chair **Tony Franceschelli '78** urged graduates to be proud of their accomplishments at Cayuga, and to use those achievements as a building block to overcome future challenges.

“As you look forward, many of you may already know what you are going to do next. Some may still be waiting for an opportunity to emerge. Time will sort that out and the right opportunity will present itself,” said Dr. Durant. “When it does, approach it with the zeal and determination you showed at Cayuga. Do that, and more successes and milestones will be in your future.”

“Determining where you should go, and what you should do, is never easy. As a Cayuga alum myself, I know that daunting feeling as you answer the question of what comes next,” said Chair Franceschelli. “When that question faces you in the years ahead, think about what you’ve accomplished here. Don’t doubt yourself and your depth of talent. Be confident in who you are, what you’ve done, and what you will do.”

Student speakers for the ceremony were **Adam Birtwell '24**, who earned an Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Humanities and Social Sciences, and **Lucy Noble '22 & '24**, who earned an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing. **Kayleigh Stayton '24**, who graduated with an Associate in Science in Studio Art and Design, was the student vocalist.

Class Marshals were **Analysa Landes '24**, who graduated with an Associate in Science in Health Sciences with a concentration in Radiation Therapy, and **Helena Schmidt '24**, who graduated with an Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Humanities and Social Sciences with a concentration in Psychology.

Graduates **Nathanael Hand '24** and **Zach Ingersoll '24** were recognized for receiving the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. Mr. Hand earned an Associate in Applied Science in Media Arts: Audio Production: Music Production Option, and Mr. Ingersoll earned an Associate in Applied Science in Business Administration.

The ceremony marked the third time the College has held the ceremony at Falcon Park in Auburn.





## NURSING STUDENTS CAN ACCESS A NEW EMERGENCY FUND - UNVEILED AT THIS SPRING'S MOVING UP CEREMONY

On May 9th, the College's Nursing Program hosted its annual Moving Up Awards on the Auburn campus at a luncheon attended by several award donors and College Staff.

Among the attendees were Jinny Porcari Keough, Chuck and Conna Porcari, representing the new Mary Porcari Brady Fund that was established as an emergency fund for students in Cayuga's Nursing Program, allowing them to apply for funds due to a financial emergency that may threaten their ability to remain in the program. The \$10,000 gift from the Mary Porcari Brady Fund is being matched by the Cayuga County Community College Foundation.

The gift to Cayuga's Nursing program is one of several the Mary Porcari Brady Fund has awarded over the past decade to nursing programs at community colleges.



L-R Chuck Porcari, Jinny Porcari Keough, Conna Porcari and Cayuga Nursing Director Mary Driscoll

Started in 2006 by her children, the fund was established to honor Mary Porcari Brady after she completed nursing school in 1971 following the death of one of her children due to a rare genetic disorder. She started her nursing career at Park Avenue Hospital in Rochester before working at Old Forge Medical Center, Cortland Hospital and Oswego Hospital before retiring in 2001.



Scan the QR Code with your phone camera to visit [www.cayugaspartans.com](http://www.cayugaspartans.com) to see the results for the Spartans' season.

# SPARTANS OFF TO TREMENDOUS START



Cayuga Community College Men's Soccer is off to an undefeated start in 2024, defeating three top-10 teams and climbing to #3 in the NJCAA rankings.

The Spartans, who as of October 4<sup>th</sup> were 12-0, were unranked at the start of the season but quickly climbed into national contention after defeating then-#5 Genesee Community College, #2 Mohawk Valley Community College and #7 Onondaga Community College.

Cayuga is led by Jacob Botterill, who became the College's all-time leading goals scorer with 67 when he scored all five Spartans goals in a shutout win over Jamestown Community College on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. In 2023 he was the top goal scorer in NJCAA Division III with 31 goals in 16 matches, and is again leading Division III this season with 30 goals in 12 contests.

Botterill is also one of three Spartans among the national leaders in assists. Bigad Sid has 18 assists, second best in NJCAA Division III, Botterill has 15 and Will Fearon has 14 assists. Defensively, Cayuga has allowed only seven goals all season, with keeper Major Evans 10th nationally with a save percentage of .852.

Regional playoffs start Oct. 20. If the Spartans advance to the National Championship Tournament, it is scheduled to run Nov. 13-17 at Genesee Community College.





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**ONE OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS  
MOST IMPORTANT DUTIES**

One of my proudest achievements was graduating from Cayuga Community College a little over two decades ago. My education at Cayuga helped open up a new world to me, as it did for so many of our alums. That is why we are so proud to recognize the achievements of those who graduated from Auburn Community College/Cayuga Community College over the last 70 years.

The Alumni Association, the Cayuga County Community College Foundation and College recognized three distinguished alumni, **Eileen Jarrett '02**, **Scott Jessie '96 & '98** and **Dr. Michael Kelly '76**, on June 18th at Prison City North in Auburn. This annual event brings together those who made nominations, our

awardees, their families and friends as well as members of our college community, many of whom taught our awardees. The evening is a night of celebration, reflection and gratitude.

As my fellow Foundation Board Member and 2021 Alumni Award Winner, **Judge Timothy Rice '77** told those in attendance “this year’s group of honorees cover a wide variety of professions and specialties from the arts and communications to health care and life sciences – that is the range of what an ACC/Cayuga education can cover.”

We wanted to share with you their biographies, excerpts of what their nominators wrote and some of their own thoughts about their time at Auburn/Cayuga.

**Ms. Jarrett told those assembled,**

*“Receiving this award is deeply meaningful to me. As a documentary filmmaker, I believe in the power of storytelling, and today, I want to share a short story about Cayuga Community College and its lasting impact on my life.*



Professor Steve Keeler, nominator, and **Eileen Jarrett '02**

*“In 1999, I walked into Cayuga’s Telecom Department with curiosity and left with a profound sense of purpose. The hands-on experience was transformative.*

*For example, in just one week, I*

*found myself shooting scenes for my first film, recording a band in Cayuga’s state-of-the-art recording studio, running camera for a live broadcast on the soundstage, and capping that off with hosting my weekly techno radio show. Where else could you find such a rich and diverse media experience all in one place?*

*“Steve Keeler, my mentor, deserves special recognition. For 22 years, Steve has been*

*a steady source of advice and encouragement, always ready with the question, “What can I do to help?” Steve, your unwavering support has been a cornerstone of my journey.*

*“Cayuga didn’t just teach me technical skills; it fostered a space to really test out ways creativity can play a role in a career. Even after graduation, the college continued to open doors for me, offering roles like the Brunelle Visiting Scholar and even opportunities to teach at the College.”*

**Mr. Jessie, in his remarks said that,**  
*“I have been a Nurse for 9,521 days, and have been honored to have taken care of thousands of people from all across Central New York. My clinical specialty is medical and surgical intensive care and trauma care and I have been able to help so many patients and families get better. For those we couldn’t help, I was privileged to be there and support their families while their loved ones passed. Nurses see and do it all; we are there for patients’ and families’ best and worst moments. We are the only professionals at the bedside 24 hours a day. We advocate, support, educate, and care.*



**Scott Jessie '96 & '98** with his Award nominators and proud parents, Paige and Kevin Jessie

*“Our patients come to us, some by chance and some by choice and we are very often the lifeline and source of hope in times of desperation.*

*“My time at CCC further developed my innate curiosity and fostered my love of learning. I am a proud lifelong learner and, as my family jokingly says, a professional student.*

*“This community is so lucky to have Cayuga Community College, the Foundation, and all the resources and opportunities they provide. The institution provides opportunity and hope for so many, providing a pathway to education and a brighter future. It empowers students from our diverse community to pursue their aspirations and make a difference in our society.”*

**Dr. Kelly told the attendees,**

*"I came to Cayuga (then, ACC!) with sports on my mind and not much else. Not having any specific career in mind, I had no idea that I would become a veterinarian. I had a ball at ACC."*



Michael Kelly, DMV '76 and nominator Tim Kelly

*"I played two seasons of soccer and ski club and loved the comradery that sports fostered with other students. What I really liked about ACC/CCC was the intimacy. We really got to know the faculty, and they us. They believed in us when we didn't know we could."*

*"I would like to thank Professor Jerry Smith from the ACC/CCC Mathematics Department who awarded me my only and most well deserved "F" in Calculus 2 in 1975. It served as a sorely needed wake up call for me to focus my career path and life in general. Thanks, Jerry."*

*"That was the foundation upon which everything else was built. I never would have dreamed of this meandering journey I have been on to culminate with becoming a doctor of veterinary medicine. I count myself as a Cinderella story. I would never have dreamed of this journey."*

**We invite you to recommend outstanding ACC/Cayuga graduates for the 2025 Alumni Awards by submitting a nomination form available at: <https://www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving/alumni/nominate/or> call 315.294.8587 to have the forms mailed to you. The nomination deadline is February 28th, 2025.**

**EILEEN JERRETT '02**



Documentary filmmaker and Ph.D. candidate **Eileen Jerrett '02** has been making films and traveling worldwide, speaking about hidden stories and extraordinary social movements. In 2015 she founded Wilma's Wish Productions and has since been praised by critics for being a pioneer in a new mode of documentary filmmaking. Her unique approach has gained access to incredibly intimate and universally identifiable moments of humanity. Her films give the audience a window into personal stories that empower, delight, and humanize the viewer and the subject. Her documentary, *Blueberry Soup: How Iceland Changed How We Think About the World* (2013) can be found on streaming services everywhere.

Nominator and Professor Steve Keeler observed, "Each year it was my privilege to try to figure out how to help each new group of students form themselves into a community of learners. More importantly, into a community of creators.

What did they know? What did they need to learn? What motivated them? I considered it a challenge and a privilege every year. However, there were some years when I was especially blessed. Eileen Jerrett was there for one of those years. Some years, there were students who were so bright and motivated, that they created their own communities and coalesced around each other and motivated each other and challenged me to up my game and become a better teacher."

**SCOTT JESSIE '96 & '98**



**Scott Jessie '96 & '98** launched his nursing career at Cayuga Community College and went on to earn a BSN and MSN, attended programs at Cornell and the Wharton School of Business, then earned an MBA, and is now close to completing his Doctorate in Healthcare Administration. As Chief Nursing Officer of SUNY Upstate University Hospital, Upstate Community Hospital and Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, he leads the largest and most highly skilled nursing workforce in Central New York with a team of over 1,700 RNs, more than 3,400 total team members and manages an operational budget of over \$450 million dollars.

duce our son Scott Jessie, for the Alumni Award. Scott's first degree at Cayuga was in Criminal Justice, a program he loved, which led him to follow in his family member's footsteps and volunteer with the Owasco Fire Department. Becoming an EMT with them led him to consider healthcare as a career choice, and back to Cayuga for his Nursing degree.

"One of the biggest things that has touched us is the calls from neighbors and patients thankful for Scott's care and comfort. Scott is still continuing his education and works diligently for patient care and the employees at Upstate. We are very proud of Scott's accomplishments and look forward to his completion of his doctorate degree."

Paige Jessie, nominator and proud mother, said in her introduction, "We are proud to intro-

**DR. MICHAEL KELLY '76**



**Dr. Michael Kelly '76** completed a BS in microbiology at SUNY Geneseo and a BS in Chemical Engineering at Clarkson University. After working in an agricultural firm in Cayuga County for a few years and countless hours spent volunteering with a veterinarian, his career path evolved to include Cornell Veterinary School. For the past 30 years he has been the consummate example of a conscientious and compassionate animal doctor, improving the lives of animals and their humans in the Olean, New York region.

Nominator Tim Kelly told the attendees "Like the other great honorees tonight, Mike built upon his Cayuga education. He has used that educational foundation to build a distinguished career. Running his clinic with his staff in Olean, quietly serving that community with professionalism and integrity. The man remembers every patient's name...and their owners, even though he might not have served them for years! Their warm appreciation is very evident when they greet him everywhere in the Olean area."



L-R Jewel Abubo, HR Specialist; Gloria Dickfoss, HR Coordinator; Jessica Gregory, HR Manager; – Mark Southwick, Plant Manager and Guy Cosentino, Foundation Executive Director.



Jessica Gregory, Guy Cosentino, and Mark Southwick

## A PERFECT DAY TO HIT THE LINKS

Nearly 70 golfers took to Battle Island State Park Golf Course, just outside Fulton, for the 27th Annual Huhtamaki Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 17th to help fund the new Huhtamaki Employee Scholarship. Created this year, the scholarship at Cayuga Community College, particularly our Fulton Campus, will help the children and grandchildren of Huhtamaki employees earn a great education locally.

Participants this year competed for The Freddie White Memorial Trophy, named for a former employee at the Fulton Plant. Golfers not only played golf that day and had a wonderful

dinner at the course, but helped raise funds for the new scholarship with competitive cornhole games, a closest to the pin contest and a dunking booth manned all day by Huhtamaki's Plant Manager, Mark Southwick, who is a member of the College Foundation Board.

The College and Foundation appreciate the leadership of Mr. Southwick as well as the team at Huhtamaki, including Human Resources Coordinator Gloria Dickfoss, Human Resource Manager Jessica Gregory, Human Resource Specialist Jewel Abubo and the graphic talents of **Mark Hemans '92**.

### 2024 HUHTAMAKI GOLF SPONSORS

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Berlin                       | Mullen Industrial Handling                  |
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Good Sport – Plant Manager and Foundation Board Member, Mark Southwick

# FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NEW EARLY PATHWAYS SCHOLARSHIP

Cayuga Community College has announced a new scholarship starting this Fall that will reward students for their hard work and dedication to earning college credits while completing their Regents diploma.

Thanks to a generous \$250,000 gift from the Cayuga County Community College Foundation, the Early College Pathways Scholarship is now available for eligible students. The scholarship recognizes high school students who commit themselves to earning credits through Cayuga's concurrent enrollment offerings.

The annual scholarship is another example of the Foundation's commitment to creating financial pathways for determined high schoolers to continue their academic journey at Cayuga.

"The Early College Pathways Program is a double win for the College Foundation to fund", according to Foundation Executive Director Guy Thomas Cosentino "... it not only helps students in Cayuga and Oswego counties further their education, having already taken Cayuga courses, but also helps to increase enrollment on both of our campuses."

"We're very appreciative of the Foundation's generous support for our students and this new scholarship," said Dr. Cathy Dotterer, Cayuga's Vice President for Student Affairs. "Many students arrive at Cayuga having challenged themselves in high school to complete college courses and earn credits toward their chosen degree. This scholarship recognizes and rewards their commitment."

Eligible students must successfully complete a minimum of three Cayuga credits through concurrent enrollment. They must also submit an admissions, FAFSA and TAP application by July 15, be enrolled as a full-time student the semester after their high school graduation, and maintain good academic standing.

Students who earned 3-11 credits in high school can receive an annual award of up to \$500, and students who earned 12 or more credits are eligible for an annual award of up to \$1,000. The scholarship is applied annually for up to two years, and is applied after all other financial aid is applied.

The Early College Pathways Scholarship can also be combined with the Presidential Scholarship at Cayuga, another financial opportunity generously supported by the Foundation.

The new scholarship dovetails with the Early College Pathways Program announced this summer by Cayuga. The Pathways Program creates clearly defined routes for high school students to earn college credits toward a specific degree program at Cayuga.

Simultaneously earning high school and college credits creates an accelerated pathway for students to transfer or, in the case of Auburn High School grad and Cayuga alum **James Mark '22**, start their career.



Mr. Mark (pictured above on the right) completed his high school degree while earning numerous college credits, then received his A.A.S. in Electrical Technology from Cayuga at no cost. He started at Waygate Technologies upon graduating, soldering cable harnesses before he was 20 years old. He was recently promoted to Shop/Plan Operator-Expert, and discussed his experience at a conference this Summer on our Auburn Campus.

"The progress made from graduation to being a new hire to earning my first promotion has been rapid, and an amazing journey," said Mr. Mark. "In conversations at work, we still use terms and topics I learned at Cayuga, so I doubt I'd be this far along if it wasn't for that experience. I highly encourage everyone to consider a similar pathway to earn their high school and college degrees while preparing for their chosen career field."

Initiatives like the Pathways announced by Cayuga are essential to preparing the future workforce, said Dr. Gretchen Schmidt, a Senior Fellow at the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement and the guest speaker at the conference.

Citing evidence from a recent study from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, titled "The Future of Good Jobs," Dr. Schmidt said future careers that lead to a living wage will require a post-secondary credential.

"The work that Cayuga is undertaking in partnership with local school districts is critical for the economic mobility of members of your community but also for overall economic growth in the region," said Dr. Schmidt.

*Continued on page 13.*



*Continued from page 12.*

“By working together, in more innovative and collaborative regional partnerships focused on programs that lead to a living wage, educational institutions and employers can increase economic opportunity for current and future students. This is hopeful work — for students, their families and the community at large.”

Connecting high school students to career pathways has also drawn support from district leaders at CiTi BOCES and Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, as well as Marq Brown, Vice President of Human Resources and Chief People Officer at Oswego Health.

“As the Baby Boomers continue to exit the workforce, it’s critical that we provide opportunities for Generation Z students to explore pathways into industries that are already seeing shortages,” said Brown. “Five years ago, Oswego Health partnered with Cayuga Community College and three local high schools in an Early College Health Sciences program to create these pathways. Our first cohort of 24 students just graduated, each with over 30 college

credits toward healthcare programs like nursing and medical imaging.”

CiTi BOCES District Superintendent Christopher Todd said collaboration between educational institutions and industry leaders will lead to stronger results for students.

“At the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation, collaboration is at the heart of everything we do,” said Superintendent Todd. “We are dedicated to fostering a cooperative environment where ideas and expertise converge to enhance educational experiences. By working together, we can create innovative solutions and provide valuable opportunities that open doors to student success.”

The Early College Pathways are the latest addition to Cayuga’s concurrent enrollment initiatives. The College currently has diverse programming agreements with 31 school districts across Central New York, offering high school students the opportunity to earn credits toward a college degree.

## CAYUGA’S CULTURAL SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS WITH ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION

Cayuga Community College’s Cultural Speaker Series resumed this Fall, with the first free presentation discussing how people can reduce their environmental impact.

The sixth year of the Cultural Speaker Series launched with Marian Brown’s “Lightening Your Environmental Footprint,” a conversation about sustainability and how it factors into the economic, environmental and social aspects of everyday life.

“We’re excited for the return of our Cultural Speaker Series, and especially to have someone with Marian’s expertise starting off the Fall discussions,” said Emily Cameron, Cayuga’s Director of Community Education and Workforce Development. “Marian has dedicated years to educating, leading and practicing sustainability-focused initiatives, and we’re looking forward to a conversation about the environment and our role in preserving it.”

Brown said her discussion doesn’t focus on some of the more visible or



popular topics related to sustainability, such as eating a vegan diet or buying an electric car. Sweeping changes like those can be difficult to start and maintain, she noted.

Instead, she focused on how each person can factor sustainability into their daily life, and the impact those decisions can have on the environment.

“Sustainability doesn’t have to be about making a single, big change in our lives. It can be as much about being more informed in the choices available to us, and how to include

sustainability as a factor in the decisions we make each day. If each of us can do that, we can have a measurable impact on preserving the environment for future generations,” she said.

Brown has a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Brockport and a master’s degree from Ithaca College, and an extensive professional background in sustainability. She led sustainability efforts at Ithaca College for more than

a decade before joining Wells College, where for the past decade she was the Director for the Center for Sustainability and the Environment. In that role, she taught sustainability courses, programmed the Sustainability Perspectives and Sustainable Business Speaker Series, and partnered with Cayuga on sustainable culinary events.

She has also participated in community-focused sustainability efforts such as Cayuga Climate Action and Solarize CNY.

*Continued on page 24.*



# 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' CIRCLE DINNER

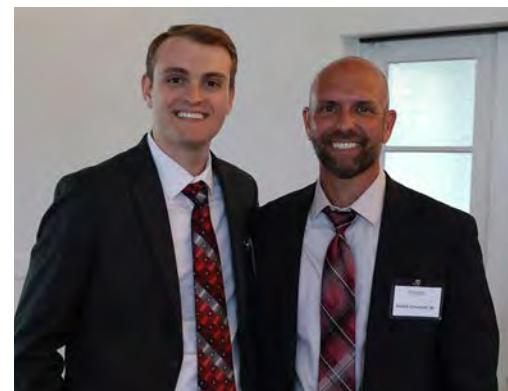
Annually the Cayuga Community College Foundation holds its Presidents' Circle Donor Recognition Dinner to recognize major donors to the Foundation, including those who give \$1,000 or more annually, and the local philanthropic community that support our College.

This year, the Foundation's 36th Annual Dinner was held at the Emerson Park Pavilion. Over 100 attendees enjoyed a wonderful dinner by Andrea Crowley-Gavigan and her team at A & M Catering after being serenaded by harpist Chris Molloy. Foundation President Kevin LaMontagne recognized 10 current or recently graduated students who were recipients of scholarships or Commencement Awards funded by those donors they sat with at the dinner. Mr. LaMontagne also recognized Cayuga Community College student and artist, **Faith Campbell '25**, a student of Professor Melissa Johnson, who drew the art work for this year's invitation and dinner program.

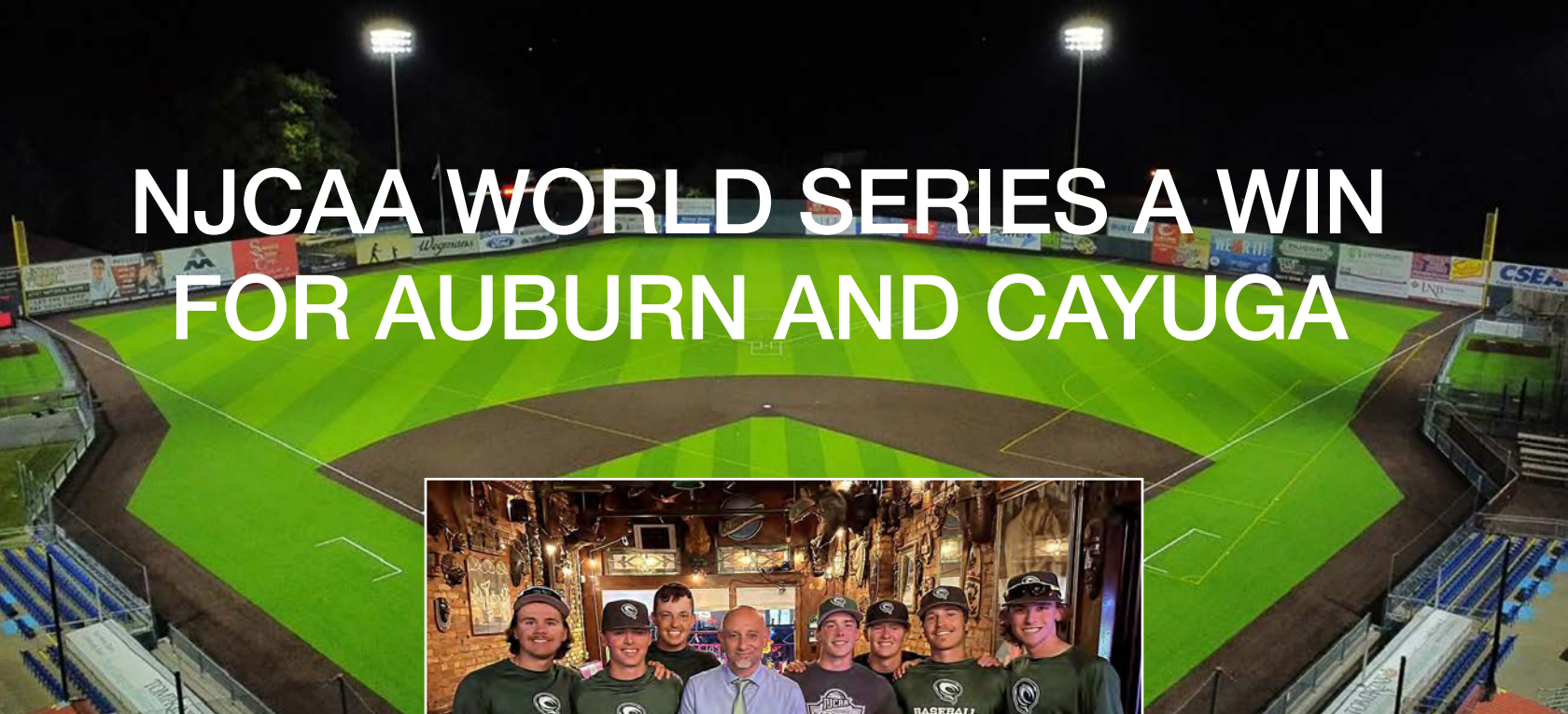
Former Board Members Patti Callahan, John Latanyshyn and **David Mamuscia '64**, were also recognized at the dinner, as well as **Dr. Michael Pacelli '85**, who received the 2024 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Teaching.

Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant thanked those who have routinely invested in the College, and also outlined plans he and the Board of Trustees envision in the coming years. Always optimistic about the College and its future, he told those in attendance "... our greatness is defined by our student outcomes and success stories, not the size of our institution. Our rich history, robust alumni network, community partnerships, and talented faculty and staff position us in an incredible position for our future."





# NJCAA WORLD SERIES A WIN FOR AUBURN AND CAYUGA



Falcon Park saw the crowning of a repeat College World Series champion this spring, but the City of Auburn and Cayuga Community College also won big during the five-day tournament.

Cayuga and Falcon Park were the hosts for the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III World Series, which brought eight teams from across the country to Auburn this May for the tournament. Rowan College South Jersey-Gloucester defeated Dallas College-Eastfield in the finals, securing their second straight Division III title. Falcon Park will also be the host site in 2025.

The presence of one of the premier NJCAA Division III sporting events was a fantastic experience for the teams and the region, said Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant and Auburn Mayor James Giannettino. The tournament brought in hundreds of players, families, officials and NJCAA leaders, filling hotels and providing an additional economic boost to the area.

Both the College and City are already looking forward to next year's tournament.

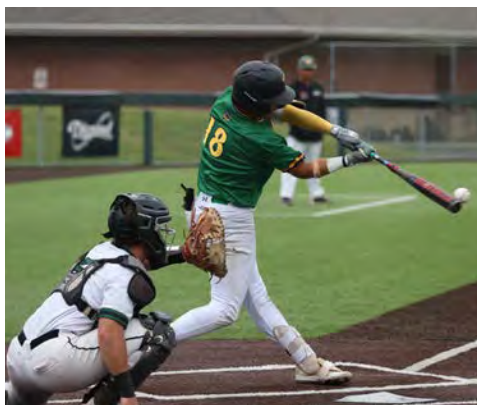
“This year’s World Series was an opportunity to showcase Falcon Park and the greater Auburn region, and Cayuga was proud to be a leading partner in bringing the tournament here,” said Dr. Durant. “Our partnership with the City has made Falcon Park an exceptional athletic facility that is also a host site for concerts and other community events. We appreciate the NJCAA recognizing the outstanding caliber of Falcon Park and our Auburn area, and we look forward to hosting again next year.”

“The City of Auburn was excited to host the eight teams that competed in the 2024 NJCAA World Series. The partnership we have with Cayuga Community College has allowed Falcon Park to be a first-class facility capable of hosting tournaments of this magnitude. We thank the NJCAA for selecting Falcon Park, and we can’t wait to welcome the teams that will participate in the 2025 NJCAA College World Series,” said Mayor Giannettino. The Mayor (pictured above) was able to meet one team at Swaby’s Restaurant in Downtown Auburn during tournament week.

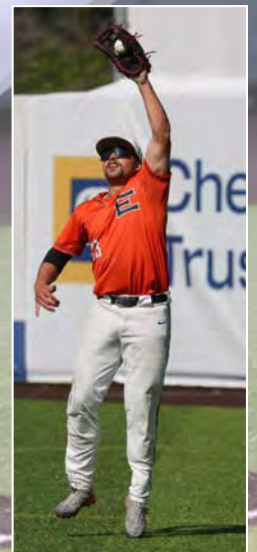
Cayuga Athletic Director John Rizzo, who has also coached the Spartans’ baseball team for three seasons and helped organize this year’s World Series, said the tournament brought five days of excellent baseball to the region.

“Auburn has always had a strong connection with baseball, particularly at the collegiate and minor league level with the Doubledays,” said Director Rizzo. “The World Series gave fans another opportunity to watch fantastic players from colleges across the country come to Auburn to compete for a championship. It was a great experience to see these teams in action, but also to see their love for the game and respect for each other.”

Along with RCSJ-Gloucester and Dallas-Eastfield, the six other teams were: St. Cloud Technical & Community College from Minnesota; Camp Community College from Virginia; Northern Essex Community College from Massachusetts; Herkimer College; Dallas College-Richland; and College of DuPage from Illinois.







# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Over the last year, through the generosity and dedication of our community of staff, faculty, alumni and friends, we were able to help students navigate emergencies and remain enrolled.

We still need your help! Enrollment has increased for the 2024-2025 Academic Year. Our students, many of whom are part time, are juggling academics, families and jobs. The overall need for one time micro-grants to ensure student success has become even greater.

We have created the **\$100 Make a Difference Campaign** to assist students during these unforeseen emergencies with the goal of helping our students remain enrolled. Your tax-deductible donation will go directly towards student emergency support, or if you prefer, to another designation. For your convenience, you can use the envelope across from this page to make a donation, or you may give online at [www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving](http://www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving).

If you would like to donate in honor of a colleague, friend or student, we will let them know of your gift.

An unrestricted gift also allows the Foundation to fund other opportunities that benefit our students, faculty and staff. For example:

- Creating unique educational opportunities like offering lectures with award winning authors such as Maus's Art Spiegelman
- Hosting community events to celebrate the beginning and end of the academic year such as our Food Truck Festival
- Testing academic pilot programs such as the Employment Opportunities Program and the new Early Pathways Scholarship

Thank you for being a part of CCC's success! Our community is better because of your generosity.

As we all know, technology, especially social media, is changing the way we get information. We would like to identify those Cayuga Alumni who would rather receive *The Spartan* by e-mail and/or in a print format.

If you are interested in receiving future *Spartans* electronically, please fill out the form below and send it back to us in the envelope across from this page, or e-mail your request to [alumni@cayuga-cc.edu](mailto:alumni@cayuga-cc.edu). You also have the option to receive it both electronically and still by mail, if you wish.



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## Envelope

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**Julia Gislason**

Presidential Scholar, Miele/Fama Leadership Commencement Award, Neilia Hunter Biden Award in British Literature, Dean Norman Bourke Memorial Award

**Class of 2024**

“I am extremely grateful for the scholarships I earned at Cayuga Community College. They have not only brought me closer to achieving my academic goals at my transfer college, Binghamton University, but have also inspired me to pursue my passions in psychology. CCC’s thoughtful investments in furthering my education have made a huge difference for a young woman like me aspiring to make a difference in the world, and they have made that dream all the more possible for me!”

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**Braydon Crosby**

Presidential Scholar, French & Metcalf Foundations Nursing Scholar and Elizabeth Payne McQueeney Memorial Scholar

**Class of 2025**

“I am very thankful for the Presidential Scholarship and Nursing scholarships that I received from Cayuga Community College. These thoughtful gifts have taken a tremendous amount of stress off my shoulders as I go into my final year of Nursing School. Thank you again for your generosity and helping shape my future.”

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**Amy Mahoney**  
 Alfieri McColgin Nursing Excellence Scholar  
 Phi Theta Kappa  
 Class of 2025

“I am extremely grateful to receive the Alfieri McColgin Nursing Excellence Scholarship. It was a wonderful experience to talk with and learn from the influential scholarship donors at the Presidents’ Circle Dinner. I am very thankful and look forward to continuing my journey in nursing!”

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**Faith Campbell**  
 Walter K. Long Memorial Scholar  
 Class of 2025

“Thank you so much for granting me the generous Walter K. Long Memorial Scholarship. This thoughtful, meaningful gift has inspired me to become an even better artist as I continue my journey to become an art educator. I will forever remember that hard work is rewarded, and I’ll continue to work hard to achieve great things. I graciously thank everyone involved in bestowing this amazing award to art majors like me at Cayuga Community College. Thank you for this special opportunity and thank you for cultivating passionate future artists who’ll be forever changed by the memories you’ve created from this experience.”

**Sustaining Member – \$100 to \$249**

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**Jorge Jimenez**  
Empire State Diversity Honors Scholar  
Scholar athlete  
Phi Theta Kappa  
Class of 2025

“Receiving the Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship has been instrumental in alleviating the financial burden associated with acquiring school supplies and meeting personal expenses. I am sincerely appreciative of the investment made in my academic pursuits, which has significantly contributed to my accomplishments at Cayuga Community College.”

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**Patrick Crawford**

Presidential Scholar, Raymond F. Leszczynski  
 Memorial Commencement Award

Class of 2024

"I am beyond grateful for those at CCC who collectively came together to present me with the scholarships. Because of them, and those who supported me, I was able to get a head start for my future. I can proudly say because of the Cayuga classes I was enrolled in during high school and my work at CCC, I am currently in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Binghamton University, graduating after just one year at Cayuga Community College. Thank you to those who supported me and invested in my life."

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**John '70 & Stephanie '67 Zogby**

**Cultural Speaker Story continued from page 13.**

Her presentations was the first of three topics scheduled for the Cultural Speaker Series this fall. On Nov. 4, Professor Robert Humphrey will discuss Lake Ontario's Marine Sanctuary designation process at the Fulton Campus, and on Nov. 18 author Heidi Nightengale will present The Creative Writing Process at the Auburn Campus. Both Ms Brown and Ms Nightengale are members of the College Board of Trustees.

Registration is recommended for all Cultural Speaker Series events, and can be completed by calling the Office of Community Education and Workforce Development at 315-294-8841.

Both events are free to attend.



# “SOMETHING GOOD, SOMETHING MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL”

## CAYUGA COMMUNITY ATTENDS AUTHORS’ LECTURE



On May 7th sixty five members of the Cayuga Community College community attended the Friends of the Central Library Author Series lecture at the Onondaga County Civic Center with authors and artists Art Spiegelman and Neil Gaiman. Mr. Spiegelman’s two volume and Pulitzer Prize winning “*Maus: A Survivor’s Tale*” graphic novel is used by Cayuga professors Mark



Montgomery and Kelley Rowley during the academic year.

“*Maus*” is a graphic novel that was serialized in the 1980s intertwining the story of the fictional author interviewing his father, a holocaust survivor, about the terrors of World War II and concentration camps.

Mr. Gaiman’s works include “*American Gods*”, “*Coraline*” and “*The Sandman*” all three have been made into films or TV adaptations.

The College Foundation was thrilled to offer this opportunity to attend the lecture to the College’s students, faculty and staff. Attendees were able to listen to a discussion with both authors as they talked about the creative process, what gets them motivated and issues surrounding censorship and book banning.

Both of the artists are depicted in the cover of a thank you, on this page, drawn by Brunell Visiting Scholar Pedro Molina, a noted political cartoonist, who was able to attend with art students of Cayuga Professor Melissa Johnson, in the forms of the author’s most notable characters.

Her students wrote in the thank you to the Foundation, that this was “a fantastic once-in-a-lifetime experience to get to meet artists who are passionate about their creations” and “their laughs, smiles and strong words filled me with great joy and aspirations”. What may have been most rewarding was the comment that this event was “something good, something meaningful and impactful”.



# Class Notes

## 1958

**Diane Ward Starke** is recovering from bypass surgery.

## 1964

**Thomas Etter** is a retired engineer who volunteers at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville, Florida.

## 1967

**Dick Woodworth** wrote "I graduated from good old ACC in 1967. ACC taught me how to be a good student. I went with that to Northeast Louisiana University. Later, I earned a Masters at Syracuse. I had a career in HR/Labor Relations. After retiring, I taught at OCC and a few courses at CCC - week-end adult programs. I remember the late Prof. Harold Greer of ACC, who lectured the students on a strange future of climate change, global warming and warning our fuels and power sources must change, or else. He taught us the power of running water. History proved he knew what he was predicting even though back then it sounded hard to believe."

## 1968

**Susan Rice Reed '68 and Jo Ann Rice Robbins '04** recently completed a twelve-day tour of Italy. "We had a delightful time roaming the streets of Rome, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Vatican City, Tuscany, Lucca and Siena!" Both are happily retired and enjoy traveling together.

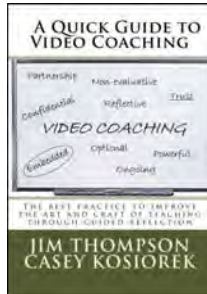


JoAnn Rice-Robbins on left & Susan Rice-Reed on right with the Mediterranean Sea in background.

## 1969

**Larry McEver** reports that he finally retired after working at ARCO for 30 years and Beckman Laver Institute, Inc. for 20 years. "I enjoyed my time working for those 2 companies, but it is time to relax and travel."

**Jim Thompson** writes "I'm the co-author of *A Quick Guide to Video Coaching:*



*The Best Practices to Improve the Art and Craft of Teaching Through Guided Reflection.* This past year I coached 80 teachers in Hilton CSD and Greece CSD and will be presenting at an international conference in New Orleans. Proud

of our attorney daughter and amazing grandson who we are with after school each day."

## 1972

**Marilynne Sommers** reports "I am a wife, mother and grandmother. I am semi-retired with a private-practice in counseling. I read, garden, sew, travel and am studying Italian for my next trip to Italy. Mostly, I live a full and grateful life, waking up each day curious about what may happen that day!"

## 1973

**David G. Lewis**, now retired, writes that he "spends my days fishing, walking, hunting, snowshoeing and working around the house and gardens in Alaska."

## 1976

**Judith Waynai Morsch** writes "I am a retired secretary who is enjoying the family my husband and I created. We now are grandparents of two."

## 1984

**Gabe Sinicropi** is going on 31 years in Williamsport, PA as the Vice President of the Williamsport Crosscutters Baseball Club. He was honored to be chosen to emcee the Annual Baseball Winter Meeting's Banquet in 2019 in San Diego, California.



He currently serves as the Chair of the Williamsport-Lycoming County Chamber of Commerce (2024-2025). He adds "Loved my time at CCC!"

## 1980

**Justin Thomas** has been enjoying retirement from the New York State Department of Labor for the past five years.

## 1985

**Dr. Michael Pacelli '85** returned to work at Cayuga in 2002. He has dedicated himself to creative instructional methods, including incorporating animation and video clips into his courses. Professor Pacelli leads courses in fields including, but not limited to, biology, chemistry, genetics, viticulture & enology, and zoology. He was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching this spring.



## 1987

**Kathleen DeJoy-Genkos '87 & '00** writes "I retired in 2023 after 36 years of New York State service with the Office of Mental Health and Information Technology Services. I have just recently published a second book, *Gutsy Gladys Johnson: Finger Lakes Woman Daredevil.* My first book, *Hometown Heros: The History of the Auburn Fire Department* was published in 2016. Both are available on Amazon."



## 1996

**Brian Scanlan '96**, was elected to a four year term to the office of Cayuga County Clerk in November 2023.





## EUGENIA “JEAN” BRYCKI SIRACUSA '88

The Cayuga Community College community is saddened by the passing of Eugenia B. “Jean” Brycki Siracusa, who passed away on April 22nd, 2024.

Jean Siracusa was a lifelong resident of the Auburn area. She earned an Associates degree in Science from Cayuga Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Wells College and a Masters of Professional Studies from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She was the former Director of the Sterling Nature Center and was an Adjunct Instructor at Cayuga Community College, for many years on our Fulton Campus.

Professor Joel Humphrey, who taught with her for many years said “Some people talk about making a difference, and some people live their lives in a way that makes a difference. Jean Siracusa falls into the latter category. Jean’s commitment to environmental advocacy was more than a career, it was a way of life for her. Her work is a testament to the power of one person to have a positive impact on this world. I am grateful to have had the privilege to know her as a colleague and mentor, and the principles she championed both inside and outside of the classroom continue to influence and guide me. She was passionate about educating others on the importance of environmental stewardship, and her enduring legacy will benefit generations to come. She didn’t just make Cayuga a better place, she made the planet a better place”.

Her family, led by daughter Jackie Caputa, has created the “Everything is Connected” Scholarship at Cayuga Community College in Jean Siracusa’s memory. Contributions can be sent to the Cayuga County Community College Foundation in the envelope on page 19, to 197 Franklin Street, Auburn New York 13021 or on-line at [www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving/donate](http://www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving/donate).

## Cayuga County Community College FOUNDATION

### WE MISSED A FEW

In the last issue of *The Spartan*, a technical glitch cut out several 2022-2023 Scholarship recipients from our listings. We apologize for the error. What follows are the awards not listed in our Spring issue:

Telecom Faculty Scholarship  
Thank A Service Member Scholarship  
Preston H. Thomas Memorial Scholarship

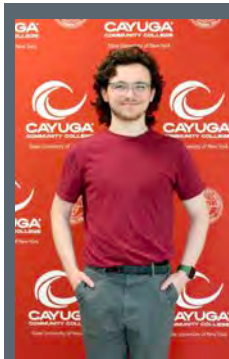
Trustees’ Memorial Award  
TRW Scholarship  
Shirley Vargason Memorial Award  
Herbert P. Ward Memorial Award  
John M. & Marjorie D. Wetherby Scholarship  
Lisa McLoud White Memorial Scholarship  
Dellaphene Winters Memorial Scholarship  
Michael C. Wride Memorial Award  
Jean Wright Scholarship

Joan Post Worden Memorial Scholarship

Jean Sturges and David Aiden Young Memorial Award

Rose M. Zambito Scholarship

## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2022-2023



### Cameron Daddabbo

John M. and Marjorie D. Wetherby Scholar and  
French & Metcalf Foundations Nursing Scholar

Class of 2025

“I have always had a desire to pursue a career where I can study medicine and care for those in stressing times. By being awarded the scholarships, you have lightened my financial burden, allowing me to focus on my studies, and moving one step forward towards my goal of being able to make a difference in the world of healthcare. Your generosity has inspired me to hopefully one day be capable of giving back to my community and future nurses just as you have for me.”

Laurel Lea Elliot  
Jackop A Lehtonen  
Stacey Marie Bredberg  
Joseph N Seguin  
Laurel Lea Elliot  
Ryan Stanley Teabo  
Andrea Lytle  
Ryan Connor  
Hayley Jones  
Alicia J Parish  
Luke Willam Winters  
Oakley Fitzgerald  
Jenna F Clark  
Brooke Halstead  
Desiree LaTulip  
Alicia J Parish  
Carson Denny  
Lauren Kingsley  
Katelyn Virginia Young

Johnson City, NY  
Auburn, NY  
Liverpool, NY  
Keuka Park, NY  
Johnson City, NY  
Auburn, NY  
Scipio Center, NY  
Syracuse, NY  
Oswego, NY  
Seneca Falls, NY  
Union Springs, NY  
Seneca Falls, NY  
Auburn, NY  
Fulton, NY  
Oswego, NY  
Seneca Falls, NY  
Martville, NY  
Fulton, NY  
Seneca Falls, NY

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# 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL CRAFT FAIR CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Saturday, December 7, 2024**

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

## A HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Cayuga Community College and the **Cayuga County Community College Foundation** are proud to announce our **49th Annual Holiday Craft Fair**. This year's event will take place from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** on **Saturday, December 7, 2024**, and **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on **Sunday, December 8, 2024**. The event, held in the College's Spartan Hall, Student Lounge, the Main Lobby, and other locations throughout the College, is free and open to the public.

More than 100 craftspeople, artists, and direct sale vendors from throughout the region will display and sell items during the two-day event. There will be a Children's Art Activity, and live music in the cafeteria. Food trucks will be located outside the Spartan Hall entrance.

Mark your calendars for this shopping adventure.



**Ron Bachta '64**, a retired architect, has been a regular participant at the Craft Fair.