

The Cayuga SPARTAN *extra*

CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DECEMBER 2024



A FALL SEMESTER FULL OF ACTIVITY

It has been a busy Fall at Cayuga on both of our campuses. Here is a sample of some of our happenings:

1. Several students submitted their artwork for the Studio Art and Design Program's 3rd Annual Reusable Bag Give away.

2. The College hosted a celebration of our Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) Program in October hosted by Dr. Brian Durant, the College's President, and

ASAP Program Director Carmela Barbagallo that included remarks from SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success Donna Linderman, State Senator Rachel May, Assemblyman John Lemondes and Cayuga County Legislative Chair Aileen McNabb-Coleman.

3. These three students enjoyed the Foundation's Annual Welcome Back Food Truck Festival outside Spartan Hall in September. *Continued on page 2.*

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A MESSAGE FROM KEVIN AND GUY

As we head into a new year, we want to take a moment and express our thanks to the generous supporters of Cayuga Community College who support its mission by giving to the College Foundation. Your contributions – whether directed toward specific scholarships, projects or as unrestricted gifts – are making a meaningful impact and we are deeply grateful for your support!

Unrestricted gifts have played a pivotal role in enabling the Foundation to help the College complete two capital projects: the new Workforce Development Center in Auburn and the new Law Enforcement Academy in Fulton, both of which will open this Spring. More importantly on this front, the Foundation, working with President Brian Durant and his team, were able to double the Foundation's support with a SUNY match exhibiting how an unrestricted gift can be a smart investment and a financial force multiplier.

Unrestricted gifts also allow the Foundation to be financially nimble and meet both unexpected needs of the College and work with the College to create innovative pilot programs that increase enrollment.

An unrestricted gift also allows the Foundation to fund other opportunities that benefit our students, faculty and staff. In the last nine months unrestricted gifts have allowed us to:

- Create special educational opportunities by offering lectures with award winning authors such as “Lessons in Chemistry’s” Bonnie Garmus and “Maus’s” Art Spiegelman
- Host College community events to celebrate the beginning and end of the academic year with our Food Truck Festivals
- Test academic pilot programs such as the Educational Opportunities Program and the new Early College Pathways Scholarship

Besides an unrestricted gift, there are also other ways to support Cayuga. We have created the **\$100 Make a Difference Campaign** to help students navigate 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 enclosed envelope to make a donation, or you may give online at www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving.

Thank you for being a part of Cayuga’s success! Your support is truly making a difference and we are better because of your generosity!

Warmest regards,

Kevin LaMontagne
Board President

Guy Thomas Cosentino
Executive Director

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4. The College’s Student Activities Board and College Foundation hosted a Food Truck Festival in Fulton in September with booths hosted by the Student Activities Board and entertainment from American Idol Finalist Rocky Peter (wearing hat) with Student Activities Director Norm Lee and Amanda Reed, our Manager of Fulton Operations.

5. Sophomore Jacob Botterill broke a 20-year Cayuga soccer record with 69 goals scored during his two-year career. The Spartans had a 14-0 regular season and were ranked number two among NJCAA Division III schools.

6. Student nurses took vital signs at our 49th Annual Craft Fair in early December, as seen

with one of the members of our winning Soccer Team, who volunteered at the event.

7. For the second year in a row, Cayuga’s Telcom Department partnered with Spectrum Sports to produce 10 football games this season. Our students and staff were responsible for the transport and set-up of the production system and working with the professional crew of Spectrum Sports. Here are students and staff at SU’s JMA Wireless Dome after a production.

8. Purple pinwheels were again placed at the circular entrance to the Auburn Campus to raise awareness about Domestic Violence. College staff wore purple in October to stress the importance of the issue and showed their support among the pinwheels.



Cayuga Community College student Avery Fuller, left, is currently interning at the Sterling Nature Center through the Empire State Service Corps. Photographed this fall with Fuller is Cayuga Professor Robert Humphrey.

After only one month, Cayuga Community College student Avery Fuller already appreciates the value of his internship at the Sterling Nature Center and the role it could play in his long-term career options. Now in his second year at Cayuga, Mr. Fuller’s internship is part of the Empire State Service Corps, an initiative that offers paid community service work to SUNY students.

Mr. Fuller began working at the Nature Center in October. His work has ranged from caring for wildlife to removing sections of beaver dams that can potentially damage the Center’s trails. It’s work he’s enjoying, whether it’s in the field or in the office.

“Internships like this one, they’re a great opportunity to learn in the field and enjoy yourself while you’re doing it,” he said. “I’ve had a chance to work on some tasks right away, but also to plan some longer-term educational projects that match interests of mine.”

His internship is just the latest opportunity the 31-year-old has enjoyed at Cayuga. He returned to college after previously earning an associate’s degree and working in the healthcare field for several years. He’s currently in

Cayuga’s Liberal Arts and Sciences: Mathematics and Science program.

Launched this Fall, the Empire State Service Corps creates compensated internship roles for SUNY students to work in their community. Students work for 300 hours in fields varying from education and the environment to supporting SNAP and regional food banks.

The internship is also an opportunity for Mr. Fuller to explore his passion for teaching. Since returning to college, he’s become a tutor at the Learning Commons — Academic Support at Cayuga’s Fulton Campus. While working as a math tutor, he’s grown to appreciate supporting other students and enjoys seeing the impact of his work with them.

“It’s more than just working at the Nature Center, or any other internship a student might have,” said Mr. Fuller. “This program helps you realize the pluses and minuses of the career field you’re considering. It might be enough to convince you it’s right for you. Or it might show you that you should consider another option. Either way, it’s great experience.”

CAYUGA BOOK CLUB HEARS AUTHOR

After the success of the College Foundation’s funded attendance of Cayuga students, faculty and staff at the Friends of the Central Library Author Series lecture at the Onondaga County Civic Center in May, Cayuga Professor Sheila Myers created a Book Club for both campuses this Fall. The Spring lecture featured authors and artists Art Spiegelman and Neil Gaimen. Mr. Spiegelman’s two volume and Pulitzer Prize Winning “*Maus: A Survivor’s Tale*” graphic novel is used in the courses of Professors Mark Montgomery and Kelley Rowley.

The Club focused on Bonnie Garmus’s best seller “*Lessons In Chemistry*”.



Published two years ago, it became a runaway international best seller. The novel focuses on chemist Elizabeth Zott, who is fired from her job and creates a beloved cooking show in southern California in the 1960’s. The book has become a show on Apple+ TV. The weekly Club meetings led to the Foundation bringing more than 30 Cayuga students, faculty and staff to attend her October 15th presentation in Syracuse. Many of the those in attendance also met at the Salt City Market to have dinner together.

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CAYUGA'S HARLEQUIN PRODUCTIONS EARNS CAST AWARD AT TANYS FESTIVAL

Strong performances from students in Cayuga Community College's Harlequin Productions helped the cast earn an outstanding ensemble award at the Theatre Association of New York State's (TANYS) annual festival.

The cast's comedic performance of "Jest Desserts" at the festival, held in November near Watertown, received a Festival Adjudicator Discretionary Award for Outstanding Ensemble. The production was one of only eight from around New York selected to perform at the festival.

"Jest Desserts," written by Rich Orloff, consists of a series of skits and performances similar to late-night TV sketch comedy. The rapid approach to the skits demanded cast members pivot between different roles and

costumes, often with just one or two minutes to spare. The show ends in a pie fight among cast members.

Harlequin Productions Director Bob Frame earned a Meritorious Achievement in Direction award, Chris Yeckel earned an Excellence in Sound Design, and the cast earned a Meritorious Achievement in Ensemble Acting award at the Festival. The College Foundation and the Faculty Student Association funded the students' TANYS participation.

The student cast members were Louis Araujo, Connor Barrigar, Cameron Bouchard, Amy Card, Hope Campbell, Thomas Higgins, Riley Kimball, Kronous Panek, Alex Reuter, Kylah Rossbach, and Jane Sullivan.