

Charter Oak State College 50th Anniversary Gala



Renee DiNino from iHeart Radio and the River 105.9, Hartford, CT, and Jason Jakubowski from Connecticut Foodshare brought that special pizzazz to the evening as co-hosts. The evening agenda included inspirational stories about bold efforts, remarkable generosity, and the Charter Oak State College legacy – rooted in higher education degree completion. Special guest speakers, Tenell ‘Tiger’ Rhodes and Trudi Lebron, both Charter Oak State College graduates, shared their inspiring stories.

Tiger Rhodes earned his bachelor’s degree and Master’s Degree in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership from Charter Oak State College in 2020 and 2022 respectively, keeping the promise

A golden celebration for the history books!

The College has been a hub of activity the last 18 months from celebrating our 50th year, to moving our administrative office physical location, to exciting accomplishments at both the Alumni Association and Foundation Board levels. We hope this Anniversary Edition keeps you connected to your alma mater. Let’s get to it!

Hosted by the Charter Oak State College Foundation on Saturday, June 10, 2023, the community of degree completion proponents came together for a Golden Celebration of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System’s only fully online College.

Ahead of its time in 1973, Charter Oak State College was created by the State Legislature with input from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to help women return to college and complete their degree with the credits and life skills they had obtained. The solution to inequity and access for many, Charter Oak was formed for the benefit of the independent adult learner.

“Looking back on the founding of Charter Oak from a 2023 perspective, we can see how forward thinking this philosophy was.” stated, Dr. Sarah Shea, daughter of Charter Oak’s first president, Dr. Bernard Shea. She continued, “He [Dad] would be thrilled to see what the college has become.”

Charter Oak State College continues to remove barriers and break the paper ceiling today having helped over 17,000 graduates realize their degree completion dream.

he had made to his mother 30 years earlier. He then earned a position at Charter Oak State College as faculty, teaching the IDS 101: Cornerstone Course, and recently embarked on a new career with Pratt & Whitney, Raytheon Technologies. His story of grit, determination, and life getting in the way ended with a solution of credit for prior learning, online coursework, and success!



Tiger Rhodes and wife, Natalie

Trudi Lebron began her degree journey as a single teen mom of two children. She knew she had to complete her degree to provide a better life for her children. Trudi was fortunate to participate in the Women in Transition Program (WIT) at Charter Oak State College and received assistance with her tuition, fees, and books, as well as academic and personal coaching. Trudi went on to earn her master’s degree, is in a doctorate program, wrote *“The Antiracist Business Book: An Equity Centered Approach to Work, Wealth, and Leadership,”* and is CEO of The Institute for Equity-Centered Coaching. Trudi shared her immense appreciation for Charter Oak and the WIT program, “Simply put,” she stated, “Charter Oak State College and the

continued on pg. 2

In this issue

1 Anniversary Edition
50 Years Strong

2 The President’s Take
The Evolution of
a College

8 Alumni Association Updates
New President – Board
Appreciation

11 Foundation News
Raise More to
Give More

13 Carol’s Corner
Updates

THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



The Evolution of a College

This is my final piece celebrating our 50th anniversary as a college. Previously, I spoke about how our students have evolved, and today I would like to describe how the College has changed. It is fashionable to describe higher education as an industry that abhors change. I just finished Brian Rosenberg's book *Whatever It Is, I'm Against It*. He documents all the internal barriers

that keep colleges and universities from adapting to major changes in the environment. Such changes are clearly confronting us today, most notably the demographic changes to our student population. But I would argue that change is always around us, and Charter Oak State College has a history of adapting itself to those changes.

When we began 50 years ago, we were designed to welcome college stop outs, particularly women, back to college. We were not designed to be instructional; specifically, we offered no courses. Instead, we assessed the learning that these adults brought us from other schools, from their work lives, and from their interests. This placed us in a very small group of colleges that were called *degree aggregators*.

Charter Oak is still a degree aggregator, but beginning in 1998, we started evolving into an online college. Our evolution into an instructional institution occurred because our students chose our online courses more often than portfolios or testing, and our institutional revenues flowed from that tuition. Students also chose 8-week courses more often than 15-week courses, and that has become our norm. But we offered only *concentrations*, and most of our students chose an individualized degree program within a Bachelor of General Studies. This was because they arrived with 90+ credits and were looking to finish their degree, actually, any degree, as quickly as possible.

But around 2010 students began arriving with fewer transfer credits (trending down from 90 to 70), and they wanted to finish

specific degrees with workforce impact. So Charter Oak created its first *major* in 2012 and began a process of program rollouts that has produced 16 programs to date, including 3 Graduate degrees. New Programs – both bachelors and masters – became our central strategic thrust. Today, we not only need to continue to roll out programs, but we need to roll them out more quickly.

We have also seen an evolution in the behavior of our students. We track the average number of credits they take per semester, and that number has continued to rise. The number for our first term of 2024 is 8.3 credits per student, the highest this number has ever been. As you will suspect, this means that our percentage of full-time students is rising at the same time that our average age at graduation is dropping. To me, this means that the category we have always called *adult learners* is expanding, and Charter Oak is providing them what they require – workforce majors, low-cost degrees, and flexibility.

Finally, along the way our Foundation grew from \$30,000 in assets to over \$1 million dollars when I became president in 2008, to its December 2023 value of \$2.5 million. Our ability to award student scholarship aid has doubled to \$200,000 per year, and this year the Foundation has supplied the college with \$90,000 to support the development of our newest program in Software Development, making our Foundation a major partner of the College.

I think this short history of the College shows that we have adapted ourselves to changes in the economy, in student demands, in demographics, and to the available technologies. I believe this willingness to adapt is our "secret sauce." If we can continue to evolve ourselves to meet market demand and to utilize available technologies (keep your eye on generative AI), Charter Oak will be around for a long time.

As always, I welcome responses to eklonoski@charteroak.edu.

Ed Klonoski, President

"Anniversary Gala" continued from pg. 1

WIT Program are responsible for stabilizing the foundation of my academic and business success. Having a four-year degree gave me a chance to get a seat at the table and be in the room. And that changed the trajectory of my entire life." Trudi's work has been recognized at the national level and last year she was featured on a Ted Talk, "*Searching For Our Social Future*" (TEDx Delthorne Women). Trudi provided words of encouragement and appreciation at the 50th Anniversary Gala, as she thanked Dr. Merle Harris, former Charter Oak President, for giving her access to higher education. She did not take this opportunity lightly;

the transformation from single mom, student worker, to college graduate, business owner, and well-respected speaker all began with a dream, belief in the power of education, and a lot of effort!

Charter Oak State College **President, Ed Klonoski**, addressed the crowd by acknowledging the transformative power of higher education as he stated, "Tonight, we are here to celebrate a College that has been true to its mission for 50 years. That mission has been focused on life-long learning, an educated workforce, and the family-strengthening power of education." President Klonoski also shared a vision



Speaker, Trudi Lebron

for the future, "the College would remain steadfast on the commitment to adult learners with credits and career ambitions and continue to lead higher education's efforts to adapt to new learners."

“Anniversary Gala” continued from pg. 2

He continued, “so, over the next 50 years, the people will change, and our programs and our technologies will change, but the difference we make in our learners’ lives will not change.” And, he added, philanthropic programs like the Women’s (WIT) and Parent’s (PiiT) programs will grow and continue to impact generations to come.”

Additionally, President Ed Klonoski and his wife Angela, (Class of 2012) announced their intention to fund a new Endowment Scholarship, **The Ed and Angela Klonoski Presidential Legacy Scholarship**. They pledged to donate \$10,000 over the next three years to create a fund that will be kept in perpetuity with proceeds from the investments to be used to award scholarships to Charter Oak State College students. The Klonoski’s scholarship will be used to recognize, honor, or memorialize loved ones with the awarding of cash scholarships.

The initial gift will honor our 22-year volunteer and graduate, Neal Cunningham; and we will also honor the memory of a beloved and dear community member, a graduate, faculty member, and father who recently passed away, Carlo Esidore. Thank you, Ed and Angela – we are honored to accept your pledged gift of \$10,000 and create a permanent legacy!

The College also awarded the following with the distinguished honor of being named **2023 Charter Oak State College Staff Emeriti** - **Dr. Shirley Adams**, Provost; **Bob Frederick**, Assistant Admissions Director; **Nancy Gustafson**, Information Systems; **Rowena McGoldrick**, Human Resource Manager; **Paige Pelton**, Academic Counselor; and, posthumously, **Delores Bell**, WIT Program Director.



Dr. Shirley Adams and President Ed Klonoski

Dr. Shirley Adams served for 19 years as Charter Oak’s first Provost. She helped evolve the college from a predominantly credit aggregating institution to an online college with academic programs that lead our students to career satisfaction and economic improvement. She tirelessly managed the academics, the staff, and the many details required to keep our institution achieving academic accreditations, and our students achieving academic successes. **Dr. Adams’s legacy**, dedication, and commitment to adult learners at Charter Oak State College was perpetuated by the creation of the **Shirley M. Adams, Ph.D., Scholarship Fund – New Beginnings**.



Foundation receives generous donation from Liberty Bank

Bob Frederick served the College for 19 years in our admissions department. He specialized in assisting our military students and was the number two administrator in the department. Bob was one of those cornerstones of the College who left a huge hole when he departed. It’s not just the work he did, the peers he trained, and the students he brought on board; it’s his positive attitude, his dedication, and his humor.

A **Matching Challenge Paddle Raise** ended the presentation at the 50th Anniversary Gala. As Steven Taylor, VP of the Charter Oak State College Foundation and a VP at Liberty Bank presented a check from the Liberty Bank Foundation for \$10,000 to the Parents Intent on Improving Tomorrow fund (PiiT), and the guests were invited to help raise more, to double the donation with a match and help more parents.

The PiiT award was created to compliment the WIT Fund – to offer a financial boost to parents living in poverty – single or married, moms or dads – who are working to finish their degree. The PiiT Scholarship is a one-time \$2,000 award that helps our parents finish their degree. As a 2023 PiiT recipient stated – “I am deeply appreciative of all your support. Thanks to you all, I can focus on my last semester in college without having to worry about working overtime.”

We are happy to report that the Gala Paddle Raise was a success and \$10,000 was pledged from guests in attendance! Additional fundraising efforts included a silent auction. Many Charter Oak State College Alumni donated to the Auction, sharing published and autographed books, paintings, and even a Sunset Sailing Experience for Two on the Schooner Jolly II Rover, a sunset sailing experience in the glistening waters of the Florida Keys with a Hint of Piracy from (Captain) William J. Malone, '76.

Thanks to all!

CharterOak STATE COLLEGE connections

ANNIVERSARY EDITION/SPRING 2024 • Volume LII, Number 1

Issued semi-annually for alumni and friends of Charter Oak State College.

Charter Oak State College complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action.

Charter Oak State College Through the Decades

1973 - 2023

The First Decade | 1973



Degree Granting Authority Established by the Connecticut Legislature

“The story of the **Board for State Academic Awards (Charter Oak State College)** is a history of how concerned Connecticut residents, government and the higher education community were persuaded to undertake certain lasting reforms – including establishment of a new form of educational institution – for the benefit of the independent adult learner.”

“The American Association of University Women (AAUW), the television industry, and the state’s public libraries spearheaded a new kind of “college” – an executive agency with degree granting authority,” noted **Bernard Shea, Ph.D., Harvard, the first president of Charter Oak State College**, in his publication “A Short History” written in 1993.

The original BSAA Board

Doris G. Cassidy of Stamford, President of the Connecticut Division
American Association of University Women

Gerald M. Leonard, Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Stamford

Grace W. Linden of North Franklin

Ernest Lockman of Norwalk

Paul Taff of Glastonbury, President of Connecticut Public Television

During the first ten years, state and regional accreditation was received and the BSAA was authorized to award the degrees of Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science.

The General Assembly authorized the title change to Charter Oak College.

During the first ten years, **state and regional accreditation was received** and the BSAA was authorized to enroll candidates and award the degrees of Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science.

The General Assembly authorized the title change to Charter Oak College.

The Connecticut Open Learning Assistance Corporation (now the Charter Oak State College Foundation, Inc.) was established as a 501(c)3 Nonprofit organization to operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, to solicit and receive donations of funds for the support of the educational purposes of Charter Oak State College and provide financial support to students seeking to earn their degrees.

The Second Decade | 1983



The Alumni Association and the Student Association were formed, and a graduate and a student were added to the BSAA Board.

The faculty developed comprehensive examinations in business subjects and the first video-based courses were offered.

The Bernard D. Shea Endowed Fund was established to further the College’s mission to engage students, graduates, and the community in public lectures enforcing a core value of lifelong learning.

Dr. Gerald Lamb, the first BSAA Board Chair was honored for his many years of distinguished service.

Dr. Merle Harris becomes President of Charter Oak State College and serves from 1989 - 2008.

Legislation was passed to add “state” to the name, Charter Oak State College.

Commenting on the new name, President Merle W. Harris noted, “The legislation adding “state” to the name telegraphs both that the College is accredited and supported by the State, and that the State recognizes the important role the College plays in preparing citizens to contribute fully to the workforce and to community life.”

The Charter Oak Alumni Association now represents over 3,000 graduates.

The Third Decade | 1993



The College leads the charge to form the **Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC)** – A Degree Granting Center for Innovation and Adult Learning was a collaboration of a number of colleges (in Connecticut).

The **first online course(s) are developed** by the CTDLC with a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Charter Oak State College **designs, builds, and moves into 55 Paul J. Manafort Sr. Drive**, New Britain.

Charter Oak State College **Foundation launches and achieves its first endowment campaign** goal of raising \$500,000 in private contributions over five years with the state matching program.

The **Doris G. Cassidy Award** is established to honor her years of service as founding member and second BSAA Board Chair. Awarded to graduates who exemplify the essence of the Charter Oak mission, availing themselves to a broad range of learning options.

The College awards **first Doctor of Humane Letters**, honoris causa to **Eileen Shanley Kraus**, a business executive **who broke the glass ceiling to be the first woman to run a major bank in Connecticut**. She was later inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame.

The College **establishes its Women in Transition (WIT) program** to break the cycle of poverty for low-income single mothers. The program eliminates barriers to degree completion such as, covering the cost of tuition, fees, and books; and providing the necessary technology.

At the turn of the century, the College begins to use technology for live chats with perspective and enrolled students, ecommerce, launches online courses, and provides a webcast for graduation.

Online tutoring is introduced as well as digital library access.

Accelerated online courses in management, leadership and criminal justice were launched, as well as a non-credit nursing refresher course. The Early Childhood Pathways exam and the Connecticut Director's Credential for Early Care and Education were established.

The Fourth Decade | 2003



A new brand is launched, with the adoption of a new logo and tagline – **“Degrees without Boundaries.”**

The College begins to offer concentrations using Charter Oak online courses, including American Studies, Public Safety Administration, and Health Care Administration offering 200 online courses.

The College receives state licensure for Alternate Route to Certification in Early Childhood Education (ARC).

Ed Klonoski, M.A., is appointed 3rd President of the College after a national search.

Dr. Shirley Adams, Vice President for Academic Affairs, is named the first Provost of the College.

The College signs agreements with the Navy College Distance Learning Program and Army National Guard. The College developed a state-wide LPN to RN articulation agreement and conducted Credit Assessment Program Evaluations of Judicial Marshalls and the Department of Corrections Programs.

Capstone and Cornerstone Courses were implemented and added to the degree requirements as a residency requirement is established.

The Connecticut Legislation is amended to grant Charter Oak State College permission to award **master's degrees**. The **first major** is launched, Health Information Management, and the first full-time faculty member is hired.

Online courses are now central to the institution and a three-semester academic year is established, adding summer semesters.

Staff appointments are expanded as the College appoints full time, Registrar and Academic Dean positions. The physical campus expands beyond the one building as staff are relocated to Alumni Road with the CTDLC.

As the fourth decade ends, Legislation eliminates the BSAA and appoints a Board of Regents to oversee Connecticut's Online College, Charter Oak State College, the four Connecticut State Universities, and the twelve Connecticut Community Colleges.



CharterOak STATE COLLEGE

A Higher Degree of Online Learning

The Fifth Decade | 2013

Charter Oak led and launched a state-wide program, “Go Back to Get Ahead.” The \$6 million dollar investment from the State Legislature encouraged Connecticut residents to return to college to complete their degrees. Enrollment increased by 35% during the campaign.

Charter Oak State College, a founding member of the Connecticut Credit Assessment Program (CCAP) led the review process of the Consortium for the Assessment of College Equivalency (CACE). A set of review standards was adopted to guide educational institutions in the evaluation of college-level learning and competencies.

The Women in Transition Program Director, Delores Bell, helps close to 200 women earn degrees from 2004 to 2018, maintains a graduation rate of more than 70% and has measurable outcomes as participants having increased technology skills, realize job advancement, and economic mobility. She is remembered and honored with the awarding of the Delores Bell Memorial Scholarship.

The College Launches its first master’s degree in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership.

The College receives approval and accreditation for a Health Information Management (HIM) program.

A nation-wide search for program directors is launched and the **Health Sciences and Technology Department** is formed. Dual degree opportunities in an accelerated format are offered as programs include Bachelors in Health Care Administration, and Health Information Management, Masters of Health Care Administration, and Health Informatics, and the associated certificate programs.



The Charter Oak State College Foundation establishes an annual celebratory event, **Employer Appreciation**, to recognize and acknowledge employers who contribute to the successful degree completion of Charter Oak students, provide improved employment conditions, and/or are proponents of education and degree completion.

President Ed Klonoski prepares the College for remote telework prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic statewide shutdown. Students, staff, and faculty continue online learning as work-from home orders persist.

The 2020 Commencement is celebrated virtually, and 546 students earn degrees across all undergraduate and graduate programs, 70.3% of the degrees were awarded to women.

The Foundation and College host a three-part virtual Shea Lecture Series in 2020, consisting of live engaging panel discussions on the topic of economic disparity within our state and country, the origins, barriers, limitations, and solutions. The series concluded with concrete actionable solutions published in the Shea Solutions White Paper and the Parents Intent on Improving Tomorrow (PiIT) Scholarship was established.

The Charter Oak State College Alumni Association offers personal and professional development (virtual) workshops to engage the community of over 17,000 graduates.

The Nursing: RN/ADN to BSN Program is designed to provide a quality, affordable, seamless, diverse, and accessible alternative for registered nurses prepared at the associate degree (AD) or diploma level to progress to the baccalaureate degree in nursing.

The Shirley M. Adams, Ph.D., Endowed Scholarship Fund – New Beginnings – was established upon her retirement. This legacy gift honors her years of service to Charter Oak State College, her passion for adult learners, first-generation college students, and second chances.



Dr. David Ferreira is hired as Provost after a nation-wide search.

The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program is approved.

The College and Foundation receive a **\$1.375M CareerConnect Grant** from the Connecticut Office of Workforce Strategy in collaboration with Hartford HealthCare, Capital Workforce Partners, and Girls for Technology.

“Charter Oak State College has a long history of serving non-traditional students who need flexible, affordable, and high-quality higher education options,” said President Ed Klonoski. “As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we remain committed to providing a high value, low cost and powerful online education designed to advance our student’s careers and help build a better workforce.”

Charter Oak State College begins renovation for a new campus located at 185 Main Street, New Britain with a projected move-in date of July 2023.

Ribbon Cutting and Name Unveiling

— Led by Leadership, Students, Stakeholders, and Staff



On October 4, 2023, Charter Oak State College invited community members to celebrate our move to new administrative offices with an official ribbon cutting and open house.

The Move

After intensive budgeting and planning, the collective efforts within the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) system brought this much needed project to completion. Charter Oak State College was able to combine its administrative staff from two separate buildings into two floors of one building. The new location, 185 Main Street, New Britain is also home to the CT State Community College administrative offices.

In the process, Charter Oak and the CSCU System were able to revitalize an important piece of real estate in downtown New Britain for multiple purposes, a win for higher education and a win for the city. Additionally, this move represents a commitment to reducing the College's footprint, improving the higher education experience for students, while positively impacting the economic advancement of the downtown area.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony included the announcement of a new name for the building itself, the *New Britain Center for Higher Education*, which was approved by the Connecticut Board of Regents just days earlier.

Danielle Panton, a graduate of the Class of 2022, had the honor of cutting the official ribbon. Danielle was happy to be a part of the celebration and shared, "Thank you for allowing me to be part of this ceremony! *To me Charter Oak State College means progression.* Thanks to the Tuition Match Program, I was able to attain my Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2022. I am now in my final semester here at Charter Oak State College earning my Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership. After graduation I intend to pursue a career in Human Resources. Thank you to the Tuition Match Program for making this possible!"

Charter Oak State College President, Ed Klonoski, said "As Connecticut's premier public online college, the foundation of our success relies on the use of cutting-edge technology to deliver 21st century programs and services to our online students. Our

new location provides our team with one high-tech facility from which to enhance our workforce-oriented online degree programs, grow our micro-credential offerings, and provide A+ online services to our students."

Klonoski continued, "We value the dynamic of being co-located with our colleagues at CT State Community College, and look forward to using our collective energies for the benefit of our Community College Tuition-Match students – now and into the future."

"The New Britain Center for Higher Education reflects a significant milestone for collaboration between our CSCU institutions and a new paradigm for higher education in Connecticut and in the New Britain community," said **CSCU Chancellor Terrence Cheng**. "I especially want to thank Charter Oak State College President Ed Klonoski and CT State President John Maduko for working together in providing an affordable and high-quality education solution for our students, who will be well-prepared to enter into the state's workforce."



Michael Moriarty, Charter Oak Vice President for Administration & Chief Financial Officer celebrates the project grand opening

"By coming together under one roof, in a city with a deep history of providing higher education, we're not just sharing a building; we're unlocking the potential for greater collaboration that paves the way for more affordable and flexible paths to college degrees for students in Connecticut and beyond," said **CT State Community College President John Maduko, MD**. "Together, we enhance affordability, turning aspirations into degrees. The Tuition Match program has already made bachelor's degrees the most affordable in the state."

continued on pg. 10

Meet the new Charter Oak State College Alumni Association President Holly Howery, 2014, 2017, 2020

A three-time Charter Oak State College graduate, **Holly Howery** embarked on renewed higher education goals in 2012 when she came to Charter Oak with 15 college credits and a dream. She quickly embraced her role as a non-traditional student and member of the Charter Oak State College community. Holly earned three degrees and attended three graduations – in 2014 (A.S.), 2017 (B.S.), and 2020, her Master of Science in Organizational Leadership.

Holly served on the Student Association (SA) in a variety of capacities, most notably, as Representative to the Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education (2012-2017). She was elected to serve as President of the SA, upon recommendation by John Thomas, outgoing SA President. The Student Association serves to enhance the student experience and encourage connection.

Holly's leadership ability and commitment to higher education shined brightly during her time on the Student Advisory Committee and in 2018, she was appointed by then Governor Dannel Malloy to serve on the Board of Regents for Higher Education as a Regent. Holly served tirelessly from 2018-2023 amidst much change and while working a full-time job and earning her masters' degree. A traditional non-traditional student, she juggled many important

assignments, was a speaker at a variety of Commencement Ceremonies, Chaired the HR and Administration Committee, and she eventually joined the Alumni Association Board as a Director.



After completing her time on the Board of Regents, Holly was selected for a faculty position at Charter Oak, where she teaches Digital Literacy. Professionally, Holly is a Media and Communications Consultant, Professional Leadership Coach, and Adjunct Professor. Before completing her M.S., Holly spent two decades working in media technology and operations. Holly and her wife Karen currently live in Holyoke, MA, with their rescue dogs.

In the fall of 2023, Holly was elected to the Position of Alumni Association President, once again, stepping into a leadership role upon the resignation of outgoing president, John Thomas.

The Alumni Association has a vision of creating a vast community of engaged alumni, and Holly invites you to join us!

"The Alumni Association is committed to the vision of past Boards. We are embracing our role as alumni to cultivate a community by networking and helping the next generation of graduates in creative ways. We look forward to working closely with the Student Association and Foundation Boards to support the Charter Oak Community achieve its collective goals. Together we can do so much more to give back to the school that gave us each so much."

Alumni Association Board of Directors 2024

Officers

Holly Howery, 2014, 2017, 2020, President
Steve Foerster, 2005, Vice President
Cecelia Peppers-Johnson, 2002, Secretary
Chris May, 2011, Treasurer

Directors

Mervin Alexander, 2018	Sean Peltier, 2020
Aquia Brown-Welch, 2021	Daniel Perea, 2018
Trinene Davis, 1998	Joel Raffone, 2019
Sophia Jappinen, 2021	Tenell "Tiger" Rhodes, 2020, 2022
Traci O'Brien, 2021	John Thomas, 2013
Joan Palmer, 2003	Juan Urena, 2018

STAY CONNECTED!

We always like to hear from our alumni about promotions, graduate degrees, awards, marriages, births, and other significant successes in your life. Email updates to share to chall@charteroak.edu.

Distinguished Alumni recognized for Outstanding Service

The Charter Oak State College Alumni Association celebrated Volunteer Service at their annual Holiday gathering in December. Alums gathered, in person and virtually, to celebrate a successful year, recognize long-time volunteers, and honor outgoing board members.



Marcia Anderson-Esson (1993) was recognized for 30 years of volunteer service, dedication, commitment, and many contributions to the College, Alumni Association, and Foundation. Her contributions over three decades were vast and just a glimpse of her accomplishments was shared as she tuned in remotely.

Notably, Marcia served the Alumni as treasurer, organized and chaired events, and she was pinned by President Ed Klonoski as an official Alumni Ambassador. She has a passion for helping others with her prolific volunteer services and simultaneously served the Alumni and on the Charter Oak State College Foundation Board, the Lions Club, and multiple community organizations in Connecticut and in her new hometown in Georgia. Marcia exemplifies the “pay-it-forward” mantra in her everyday life.

Marcia’s Charter Oak story began years ago, born in Kingston Jamaica, she immigrated first to England where she grew up and attended schooling to become an RN. She trained and worked at hospitals in England and in 1988, Marcia migrated to the US and began working at Yale New Haven Hospital. When she learned about Charter Oak State College, she decided it was time to complete her bachelor’s degree. The degree made it possible for her to advance in her career to a position of Case Manager. Recognizing the value of Charter Oak, she was compelled to give back by immediately joining the Alumni Board. Marcia continued with her education and obtained a Master of Nursing degree in 2012 (online) from the University of Alabama. She is the mother of three and grandmother of five.



Cecilia Sanchez Kozlowski (2011) served on the Alumni Board from 2012-2022 and the Foundation Board from 2014-2023. Cecilia is a volunteer “extraordinaire” who “was everywhere” over the last ten years! Notably, she served as co-treasurer of the Alumni Association and Chaired the Events Committee for both the Alumni Association and the Foundation Board. She

used her vast network to bring together notable speakers, solicit sponsorships, donations, and guests for many events. Her passion for education and community culminated as she chaired the *Art of Wellness* Shea Lecture in 2018 which was held at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Cecilia could always be counted on to

“woman” the Alumni Welcome Table at Commencement.

Cecilia embraces her community as a volunteer, as well as serving with the *Hispanic Health Council Board of Directors* and Gala Committee as *Silent Auction Chair*, the *Latino Endowment Fund*, at the *Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Committee* and with *El Show de Analeh* (Spanish Public Affairs TV.show). In her day job, she is the Regional Sr. Recruiter in Humanitarian Services for the Connecticut/Rhode Island region for the American Red Cross. There she has implemented programs for Latinos and serves on a variety of committees such as the American Red Cross Latino Resource Group Mentorship Program.



John Thomas (2013), outgoing president of the Alumni Association has an impressive Charter Oak resume. He was the FIRST Charter Oak student to serve on the Student Advisory Board for the CSCU Board of Regents, was Commencement Student Speaker in 2013, immediately volunteered for the Alumni Board and served as president for six of his ten years.

During his tenure as president, John led the Alumni Board through transformation and growth, from a handful of members to over two hundred paid members. He helped the Board develop events and activities that created community. John was instrumental in leading strategic planning in 2020 that produced a new vision. ***Volunteer leadership uniting the Alumni Community through meaningful connections.*** He helped recruit new members and establish the professional and personal development series, *Conversations With*. Additionally, during John’s tenure the Alumni adopted a Mascot, Oaklee!

In John’s case, he believes “access to degree completion through Charter Oak opened the doors to his opportunity to work in higher education, at CT State-Capital Community College.”

John is the program coordinator for Capital’s Career Advancement Program (CCAP), connecting students to year-round paid internships that include scholarships and an array of support mechanisms designed to facilitate academic success, post-secondary degree achievement, workplace learning, and career exploration.

John’s Charter Oak story is not over yet, as he is a student again at Charter Oak and looking forward to unwrapping even more possibilities as he embarks on the final stretch of his master’s degree in 2024.

Alumni Association members enjoy a year-end holiday gathering and appreciation of their peer volunteers at the College's new office space in New Britain, CT.



Steve Foerster, presenting John Thomas (outgoing Alumni Association president) with a Distinguished Alumni Award, with Holly Howerly (in-coming president)



(Left to right) Steve, Sophia Jappinen, Cecilia Kozlowski, and Holly Howerly (as Cecilia is honored as distinguished alumna!)



Across the miles! Marcia Anderson-Esson (center on screen) is presented the distinguished alumna award by (left) Holly and (right) Steve

"Ribbon Cutting and Name Unveiling" continued from pg. 7



Commissioner of Housing and Charter Oak Alumna, Seila Mosquera-Bruno (middle), shown here with Foundation Board Members, (left to right) Joe Waxman, Joyce Petrella, Carol Hall, and CSU Chancellor, Terrence Cheng

The Open House

Many Foundation and Alumni Board Members, local leaders, and community members came together to network, celebrate, and tour the College.

During the Open House, we gathered in the Nutmeg Conference Room to raise our "Anniversary Avery Soda" in a toast to the success of the College – 50 life-changing years! Thanks to Avery's Beverages of New Britain for their support!

Commissioner of Housing and Charter Oak Alumna, Seila Mosquera-Bruno, shared her Charter Oak story. She was asked, in just four words, can you define what Charter Oak State College means to you? She responded, "You Can Be Commissioner!"

Her Charter Oak story began many years ago when she arrived in the US, an immigrant, single parent, with education from her home country, working in manufacturing but desiring something more. She was introduced to Charter Oak State College, applied herself to the journey, found success, and continued to learn and grow. Today, she is the Commissioner of Housing for the State of Connecticut, appointed by CT Governor Ned Lamont in 2019 and re-appointed in 2023. The path to degree completion provided by Charter Oak was vital to her current success, and for that she is grateful.

A delightful array of homemade desserts was provided courtesy of Edible Creations by Angela and President Ed Klonoski. The Commemorative (Avery) Soda courtesy of the Charter Oak State College Alumni Association represents the rich history of New Britain, Connecticut. Local eateries were called upon to bring a sampling of New Britain's finest and folks enjoyed the variety of selections, rich and diverse in culture.

Tours were also included during the open house and included a peek into our high-tech conference rooms, the audiovisual studio, the wellness room, as well as the workspaces. Bright with natural sunlight, the interior restoration was completed by Nosal Construction under the coordination of Michael Moriarty, Vice President for Administration & Chief Financial Officer .

Foundation Board President Anniversary Message



In 2023, as we celebrated Charter Oak State College's 50th Anniversary Year, the all-volunteer Board of Directors of the Charter Oak State College Foundation launched a campaign to **Raise More AND Give More** with a bold fundraising goal of \$250,000.

We are proud to report, because of the generosity of our community, we raised \$249,238 (just shy of \$250,000) and we awarded students a total of \$221,000 in scholarships and grants.

The vision of the Foundation Board is to make higher education a possibility for all. The Board believes that as we provide opportunity for degree completion, we help eliminate gender and racial inequities, reduce wage and poverty gaps, and ultimately enrich the lives of students, their families, and the communities in which we live and work.

As we look to the future of the College and of the Foundation, we aim to continually increase our fundraising goals so we can give more to our students. We will boldly continue our mission to **Raise More and Give More - Creating More Brighter Futures!**

There are opportunities to create legacy gifts, to honor and remember loved ones, to give one-time or recurring donations, to pay tribute to your success, or to Charter Oak State College.

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference or pay it forward?

Let's connect! Please contact me, **Joyce Petrella**, at petrellajp@calculusoftalent.com or 860-913-8411 or **Carol Hall** at chall@charteroak.edu or 860-515-3889 to learn how you can be part of the audacious vision and transform lives today!

Rise to the Challenge!

Scan QR code to GIVE Today!



Charter Oak State College Foundation Board Appreciation



Long-time Board members celebrated at brunch event.

The Board comprises graduates of Charter Oak and business leaders committed to student success. The unwavering effort of long-time volunteers was acknowledged throughout the year and notably, Joe and Carol Waxman opened their home for a Foundation Appreciation event.

Rebeka Scalia joined the Charter Oak State College Foundation Board in July 1998 and served in a variety of positions including as President from January 2010 through May 2022. Rebeka's knowledge, resilience, and fiscal oversight helped guide the Foundation during the 2008 recession, as well as increase the endowment from \$1 million dollars to nearly \$3 million dollars. It was her insight, strategic planning, leadership, and generosity, that allowed the Foundation to provide steady financial support to Charter Oak students.

After 24 years of service, Rebeka was recognized for her commitment to transforming lives. The Foundation Board honored her leadership by funding the – **The Rebeka Scalia Leadership Award**.

Neal Cunningham, a two-time graduate of Charter Oak State College (1996 A.S. and 2000 B.S.), has been an exceptional member of the Charter Oak State College Foundation Board for 22 years; he joined the board in July 2002 and served in a variety of positions including as Vice President from January 2010 through May 2022, and as Interim President from May 2022 through September 2022.

Additionally, Neal served on a variety of committees including Chair of the Scholarship Committee where he oversaw the selection and awarding of scholarships.

In his profession, Neal worked as a Systems Manager at Travelers for 34 years and now helps his son and daughter with their machining business in Bristol, CT a few days a week. Also, a consummate community member, Neal works tirelessly serving as a volunteer for a variety of organizations in his hometown, including the Rotary Club.

During the brunch celebration, **Tom McGovern** was also recognized for his many years as the Foundation's accounting professional.

Fiscal Year 2023, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Donor Recognition and Appreciation

To Increase Giving Impact, the COSC Foundation works with individuals, corporations, and foundations to create legacy endowment funds. An endowment gift to a 501(c)3 such as Charter Oak State College Foundation, is a permanent gift that is protected. Distributions are made (from the earnings) for specific or general purposes as established.

We want to thank our community of donors who gave generously in Fiscal Year 2023. Thank YOU!

President's Circle

\$750 & above

Dr. Shirley M. Adams
Robert Addy
Tracy V. Allen
Kristen Bodenstein
Michael Broderick
Robert Casale
Julio Casiano
Glenn Davis
Abby DeLotto
Matthew and Melanie Ellis
Paul & Elizabeth Foody
Robert Frederick
Stan Guzek & Patricia Bowen
Merle & David Harris
Ed & Angela Klonoski
Mike Marusa & Family
Christine McNab Visick
George & Laura Moker
Michael Moriarty
Brian & Lucille Mulroy
Joyce & Mario Petrella
Dan Purushotham
Susan B. Sweeney
Betsy & Matthew Udal
Rebecca Wareing
Joseph & Carol Waxman

Supporter Circle

\$500 - \$749

Nicolin Carr
George & Maria F. Claffey, Jr.
Neal F. Cunningham
Sarah Ellis Murray
David Ferreira
Lori Gagne Pendleton
Joshua S. Geraghty
Krystyna Gorniak-Kocikowska
Shirley L. Leopold
Susan Lewis
Ruth MacDonald
William J. Malone
George & Rowena McGoldrick
Linda Marie Peretto

Irene Puccio
Kate Rockefeller
Leena Sampemane

Charter Circle

\$250 - \$499

Aprill Baughns, PMP
Irene C. Burke
Dave Calibey
Paul Chaplinsky
Charles Coffie
Naomi & Michael Cohen
Carlo L. Cordasco
Carlita RB Cotton
Karen Cunningham
Lillanya Dantzler
Karen E. Edmond
Tom Evan
Kelly Fast
Matt Fleury
Mary-Jane Foster
Marie Gaffney & Raymond Minor
Gerard Gagliardi
Carol M. Hall
Cheryl Harrison
Solomon Hill
Maureen Hogan
Jason Jakubowski
Cynthia James
Lora M. LeMosy
Joseph P. Leone
Allen & Fran Maltz
Chris May
Thomas McGovern
Paul Morganti
Brooke Palkie
Shyamala Raman, PhD, MBA
Omar Rodriguez
Deanna Savoie
Albert W. A. Schmid
John Stone
Nancy Taylor

Susan VanArsdale
Robert Walters

Sustainer Circle

\$100 - \$249

Dan Alois
David Arre
Kwame Asamoah
Donald W. Brodeur
Aquia Brown-Welch
Shelly L. Carter
Vickie Carter
Susan K. Chen
Jacqueline A. Cheney
Benita Clarke
Marc J. Cohen
Mardia Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Dipentima
Sheila Donnelly
Cynthia A Edgerton
Anne D. Elwell
Ruth Garby Torres
Rochelle Ginsberg
Crystal Glasscock
Jerome Golden
Katharine Griffin
Lorraine Haslip
Ella Sue Hawkins
Holly Howery
Joel Waldron Hurliman
Sophia Marie Jappinen
Timothy & Suzanne Kane
Linda Larkin
Nancy Martone
John Meyer
Raymond Minor
Kathy Murphy
Patrick Murray
Michael Nicastro
Vivian T. Orie
Yolanda Ivette Pacheco
Blanche Parker
Joan C. Parris

Doreen Piscitelli
Kenneth L. Przybysz
Barry Rahmy
Maribel Rivera Smith
Elsie Rogers
Gesualdo C. Schneider
Karen Schultz
Jennifer Shea & Peter Bruns
Scot & Patty Siarkowski
Brandee Stefano
Kathy Murray Sullivan
Steven A. Taccogna
John C. Thomas
Juan C. Urena
Stacey Walraven
Michael P. Walsh
Wanda Warshauer
Lisa Wildman
Janice Williams
Madelina Williams
Betsy Woodward
Ashley Zennis

Acorn Circle & \$50/\$50 Challenge

Lisa Acosta
Ola Akande
Nicole Alexander
Annette Amato
Marcia P. Anderson - Esson
Cheryl Andrews
Tracy A. Ariel
James Barrett
Astley Beckford
Joy Burke Burke-Hopkins
Carole Ann Carso
Bryan Cassidy
Charles Cleary
Renee Comeau
Alice Conley
Stephen D. Courtney
Steph Daniel
Melody Davis

Carith Dean
Ronald Deyton
Beth Dominianni
Sharon Efron
Timothy Egan
Angela Etoria Chapman
Patrice Farquharson
Joseph G. Fitzgerald
Michelle D. Fountain
Tejas Gandhi
Melissa Geter
James Gibbs
Kenneth Gibson
Dara M. Godfrey
Elaine Graziano
Mario Grietti
Nancy Guerin
Stephen William Hall
Kathleen J. Hartnett
Corinne Helfant
Ruth Marie Hernandez
Anna Naava Hong
Tiffany Hoxie
Jack & Beth Komorowski
Danielle Lamothe
Alia Latorre
Billie M. Levy
Curtis Lungrin
Jose & Rosa Marquez
Raquel Martinez
JD Mathewson
Brian Meier
Sarah Michaud
Regina Miller
Kristina M. Molnar
Dr. Sandra W. Morgan
Donnalynn Notaro
Barbara P. Nye
Lindsay O'Grady
Mariah Parreira
ShaRhonda Patterson
Phyllis Perry
Breanne Pytlik

Carol's Corner

Notes from the desk of Carol Hall

Director, Alumni and Donor Relations



As the **Director of Alumni and Donor Relations**, I have the honor of working with our community of volunteers who believe in the power of higher education as a means to change the trajectory of individual lives. I am in awe of their effort and commitment.

The Foundation and Alumni Board members are committed to friend- and fund-raising, and to providing opportunities to gather, learn, teach, and even give back.

The **50th Anniversary Year of Charter Oak State College** gave us all an opportunity to reflect on the past, honor our history, and to celebrate. We gathered volunteers, recruited story tellers, and planned an Anniversary Weekend which featured the *50th Anniversary Gala and a Baseball Game & Lunch*. This edition of **Connections** shares a few highlights!

Meet a few of our notable community members as you watch and listen to their testimonial videos on the College's YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/@CharterOakEdu/videos>

Alumni

1993, **Mary-Jane Foster**, President & CEO of Interval House

1994, **Seila Mosquera-Bruno**, Commissioner, Department of Housing, State of Connecticut

2006, **John DeCarlo, PhD**, Faculty, University of New Haven

2011, **Sabrina Tucker-Barrett**, President & CEO of Girls for Technology

2018, **Shelly Leona Carter**, Fire Chief, Dept. of DSS, State of Connecticut

Volunteer Board Members

President, Charter Oak State College Foundation

Joyce Petrella, Partner, Calculus of Talent

Board Member, Charter Oak State College Foundation

2020, **Mary McCallister**, Planning Analyst, Planning Improvement Office, State of Connecticut

Staff

2020, **Crystal Glasscock**, Co-Founder of Diane's Helping Hands & Assistant Bursar

Carolyn Hebert, Director of Marketing

Paul Morganti, Associate Registrar, *Serving Charter Oak since 1989*

Wanda Warshauer, WIT Program Director

Want to share your Charter Oak story or give a gift? Contact me, **Carol Hall**, chall@charteroak.edu or 860-515-3889.

Cheers to another Fifty Years!

Tenell "Tiger" Rhodes, Sr.

Sixto Rivera

Brian Romano

Constance Rotondo

Chaneka Russ

Richard Sanko

Jeffrey Segal

Hannah Sellers

Michelle Sevigny

Suzanne Sharkey

Dr. Sarah Emerson Shea

David E. E. Sloane

Jose Toyos, Jr.

Esmeralda Vargas

Janet Vasel

Victor H. Vega

Susan Venberg

Linda Wilder

Dana Wilkie

Corporate Match

Charter Oak Federal

Credit Union

Davita

Intuit

McKesson

The Benevity Community

Impact Fund

Gifts in Memory of

Carlo Esidore

Jason Jakubowski

Lori Gagne Pendleton

Linda Larkin

Dr. Shirley M. Adams

Delores Bell

Aprill Baughns, PMP

Doris G. Cassidy

Bryan Cassidy

Dr. Bernard Shea

Jennifer Shea & Peter Bruns

Mario Grietti

Peter Hagerty Shea

Dr. Sarah Emerson Shea

Kazimierz Gorniak

Krystyna Gorniak-

Kocikowska

Grants

Aurora Women & Girls
Foundation

Community Foundation of
Greater New Britain

Hartford Foundation for
Public Giving

Leipold Foundation, Inc.

Liberty Bank Foundation

Gifts in Honor of

Constable Andrew Hong

Anna Naava Hong

Dr. Merle Harris

Dr. Sandra W. Morgan &

Matt Fleury

Dr. Philip A. Hall &

Dr. John Rommel

Lorraine Haslip

Dr. Shirley Adams

Maureen Hogan &

Lisa Wildman

Linda Perfetto

Constance Rotondo

Milton Stern

David E. E. Sloane

Neal Cunningham

Ed & Angela Klonoski &

Karen Cunningham

Noah Baerman

(Piano Concert)

Dr. Shirley M. Adams

Sarah Ellis & Peter Murray

Wedding

Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Dipentima

David Ferreira

Ed & Angela Klonoski

Kathy Murray Sullivan

Patrick Murray & Kathleen

Binkowski

Scot & Patty Siarkowski

Dr. Shirley M. Adams

Wanda Warshauer

Sponsors

4 Biz Graphics

Alumni Association

B&B Threaded Components

Big Think

Calculus of Talent

Capital Business Lenders

Central Connecticut

Chambers of Commerce

Charter Oak State College

Alumni

Eversource

Fiducient

The Goddard School

Guru Enterprise Group

Jolly Rover II

Legal Shield

Liberty Bank

Mayor Erin Stewart of

New Britain

Meyer & Associates

New Britain Downtown

District

Waypoint Wealth

Solutions

Joseph Johnson, Class of 2018 – The Impossible became Possible!



Charter Oak State College 2018 Graduate, **Joseph Johnson** shared his Charter Oak story with Carol Hall, on a recent episode of the *Oaklee Asks* podcast.

His story began, like so many of

our graduates, with a drive, a decision to finish his degree. Joseph explained that he had stopped out of college because “life interrupted” his plans. But because of the cost of living and his desire to excel in his career, he decided it was time to begin again and to really focus on completing his degree. He wanted to get his degree completed for himself, but more importantly for his children and family.

He explained, what seemed to be impossible – returning to college – became possible because of Charter Oak State College. He was able to establish a payment plan for his past due financial aid bill and create a plan of study. He combined his union benefits with his financial aid benefits and was able to take courses concurrently at Charter Oak State College and another online institution. This combination made his degree completion affordable, and also record setting!

He completed the required courses and earned the number of credits needed quickly. His race was to complete his degree and not run out of his benefits. Joseph began this sprint to degree completion in Spring of 2018 and was able to complete all his course work by December 2018! He may be one of the fastest to graduate Charter Oak State College, completing the necessary coursework in just one year, and earning his bachelor's degree!

Before he completed his degree, he had more credits than needed for an associate degree, but with no credentials his career

(and pay) options were limited. Joseph was working as a paraprofessional, but with a growing family, his earnings were not sufficient. He had the ability and the desire to do more but really needed the credentials to improve his opportunities.

After he earned his degree at Charter Oak State College, doors began to open and he was able to apply for (and receive) the position he is in currently, a Family and Community Engagement Specialist. The position provided Joseph the opportunity to engage with families in his community and provide help, relief, and support. However, as he was in the community and going through his own struggles, he knew that he could help fill a void – and he began a program called the *Fatherhood Initiative*.

Joseph explained that the *Fatherhood Initiative* is targeting the needs of fathers. He never imagined he would be leading or spear-heading a group for fathers. Birthed out of pain and struggling as a father himself, he saw the need and was in a position to do something productive to help.

Joseph had to take a firm stand for his rights as a father and wanted to help others as well. He realizes while there is great racial disparity, there is also parenthood disparity, where fathers are not given the same rights (or respect) as women.

Joseph explained, “I felt a strong urge to help empower the whole child. As each child does have a story, a beginning that includes both a mother and a father.” He continued, “But, often times in society and in our court systems, mothers are given the priority and depicted as more important.”

He wanted to change this stereotype for his family and for other families too while respecting and honoring moms and motherhood. He began a program for dads that would help to support fathers' rights and help fathers become better parents, better providers.

The program has key elements and events

that get dads in a room where they can have open conversations, discuss their struggles, learn from each other, and be encouraged. Joseph is proud of their **dads and discussions** which do just that. Other events include time and place for dads to connect with their kids. Moms are invited too, but it is really created to help fathers spend time with and grow relationships with their children. Special speakers are invited, last year Doug Edwards of *Real Dad's Forever*, spoke to the group about fatherhood and manhood.

Men are feeling hopeful and excited about the possibilities. The program has grown from just his school to now reaching across the district – improving dads in his community!

The discussion with Joseph Johnson was recorded as an episode in the Charter Oak State College Alumni Association Podcast, *Oaklee Asks*. At the conclusion of the recording, the final “Oaklee” question was asked of Joseph, “*What keeps you curious and engaged in lifelong learning?*”

He replied, “The endless possibility of learning, you never stop learning even when you are out of the classroom.” He also shared a private thought, he wants to continue in his higher education, “to come back to Charter Oak State College and finish a masters' degree!”

Joseph believes that a higher degree will get him “into the room”, into the conversations that will improve the education system for our children.

Joseph Johnson, we are Charter Oak Proud of YOU!



To hear the entire interview, scan the QR code and click on Podcasts.

In Remembrance

We fondly remember and pay tribute to two dear graduates of Charter Oak State College who passed away in 2023.



Marjory Duncan Marsching, 1982

Alumna and founding member of the Charter Oak State College Foundation Legacy Society passed away at the age of 89. She will be remembered by her family and friends as “charming, elegant, witty, intelligent, champion of justice, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend.”

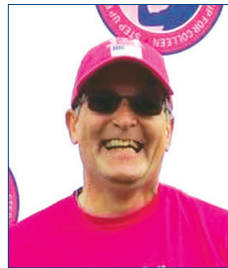
Her avid intellectual curiosity led her

to complete a Bachelor of Science degree at Charter Oak State College, New Britain, Connecticut. She then went to the University of Bridgeport where she completed a Masters in Sociology. At the age of 65, she decided to take the LSAT and attend law school. She enjoyed her studies immensely and spent a semester abroad at Trinity University in Dublin. Her whole family proudly watched when she received her JD from Quinnipiac University School of Law at the age of 70.



Today, we want to recognize Marjory for her commitment to higher education and honor her memory. Thank you, to Marjory, a Founding Member of the Charter Oak State College Foundation Legacy Society and a passionate donor. You have truly impacted many lives with

your generosity and courage. **Scan the QR code for her full tribute.**



Carlo Emanuel Esidore, 2005 Alumnus, Past President, Charter Oak State College Alumni Association, and Faculty Emeritus will be remembered, admired, and missed by many as his time on this earth came to an end (too soon) after a valiant battle with cancer. His family shared that Carlo was a devoted father of two daughters and had many lifelong friends and

beloved coworkers. He was actively involved in and served on countless committees in his community, work, and school. He had a wonderful gift of being able to bring people together for a common cause and greater good.

Carlo earned his bachelor's degree twenty-five years after earning an associate degree from (then) Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT. He was a dedicated alum who gave of his time, talent, and treasure over the decades after his graduation. He graciously served as President and became a lifetime member of the Alumni Association. Carlo received the distinction of an Alumni Citation in 2013 and served as the inaugural student speaker at the Employer Appreciation in 2018. Carlo also had a passion for teaching and was a beloved adjunct professor at Charter Oak State College. In 2022, Carlo was honored as Faculty Emeritus for his leadership, his exceptional performance evaluations from his students during his tenure at Charter Oak, and because he always answered the call for service whenever asked by the College. His students and the College are certainly all the better for his contributions.

In a fitting tribute, a Scholarship in Carlo's memory was awarded in 2023 by his Charter Oak State College friends and colleagues in collaboration with President & Mrs. Klonoski's Presidential Legacy Fund.

Tribute gifts are an admirable way to honor the lifelong learner, visit, <https://bit.ly/CarloEsidoreMemorialFund>



Jack and the Charter Oak Tree – Tree to Table

Scan the QR code to read about Alum John “Jack” Komorowski’s efforts to preserve a bit of Charter Oak history!



CharterOak STATE COLLEGE

A Higher Degree of **Online** Learning

185 Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 1413