



# SCENE

*For Friends and Alumni of  
SUNY Rockland Community College*

*Winter 2005*

## **Looking for a Few Good Grads!**



*Howard Hellman  
President  
RCC Alumni Association*

**Howard Hellman** wants you to be proud of your SUNY Rockland alumni status. Hellman, CEO of All Bright Electric in West Nyack, long-time community leader and '72 SUNY Rockland graduate, has accepted the position of president of the College's revamped Alumni Association.

"Too many people lose touch with their experience at SUNY Rockland or take it for granted," said Hellman, a Montebello resident. One goal of the Alumni Association will be to bolster a sense of pride in the College, which Hellman called "the anchor" of Rockland County. "I want to realign people's thinking toward the College. I agreed to lead the Association because of the importance the alumni of this college can play in helping to shape the future," he said.

That future looks promising, as the College is in the midst of a major expansion of its facilities and has hired a new permanent president in **Dr. Cliff L. Wood**.

Alumni can help the cause through donations or through "cheerleading," such as by recommending the College to friends and family, or putting a SUNY Rockland sticker on the back of one's car window. "As alumni, we need to get out there and encourage high school graduates to attend Rockland, because the base two-year education offered is comparable or superior to most four-year colleges," Hellman added.

The new Alumni Association will work with President Wood and the College Foundation to raise funds for new scholarships, courses and equipment.

Since graduating from SUNY Rockland, Hellman has stayed involved, sponsoring and attending many Foundation functions and serving as a member of the presidential search committee that selected Dr. Wood.

Hellman has been the owner of All Bright Electric since 1967. His business had long been a success, but in the mid-90's Hellman decided it was time to take his company to the next level. "I had to decide whether I wanted to be the boss or the horse," Hellman said. He had run his company by taking care of everything himself, but he discovered hiring key people was vital to taking his company further.

Hellman became interested in electricity as a youth, putting together his electric train sets. He later started to do wiring at home and for his neighbors. After earning his associate's degree at Rockland, he transferred to SUNY Oneonta, earning a bachelor's in psychology. He never went on to practice however, opening All Bright instead.

Hellman and his wife, Fran, also a Rockland native, are parents of two sons. His passion has always been community volunteer work, and he often makes a splash at community and fundraising events in his vintage 1926 fire truck.

*To find out how you can join the board of the Alumni Association or become a member, contact Don Cairns, RCC Foundation/Alumni Association Office, at 574-4576 or email [dcairns@sunyrockland.edu](mailto:dcairns@sunyrockland.edu).*

***Hellman believes it is important to choose the right people to sit on the Alumni Association board, people who can connect with the community and 30,000+ alumni of the College.***

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# Welcome



**Aiden Wolfe, Esq.**  
Chair, RCC Foundation

## Message from the Chair, RCC Foundation

Greetings to alumni, friends, neighbors and supporters of SUNY Rockland Community College, a unique, outstanding institution in the unique, outstanding county I have called home for many years.

As Chair of the RCC Foundation, I am delighted to welcome you to the pages of SCENE, a publication designed to keep you in touch with the people of Rockland Community College and to share the College's past, present and future with you. SCENE is a joint effort of the RCC Foundation, the Alumni Association and the College's Campus Communications department.

We look forward to working together with you and with **Dr. Cliff L. Wood**, the new president of SUNY Rockland, to advance the College's long-standing heritage of excellence and diversity.

Here are a few facts about the RCC Foundation:

- Since its inception in 1981, the RCC Foundation has awarded over \$1.4 million in scholarships, including over \$100,000 in 2005.
- Recent projects include: renovation of the stages at the Cultural Arts Theater and Spring Valley Extension Center, a Speakers Series and faculty endowment.
- The Foundation is a 501.3c non-profit organization.

## New RCC Foundation Scholarship Honors Local Vietnam Casualty

SUNY Rockland's longest serving faculty member has created a new scholarship fund to honor the memory of **Heinz Ahlmeyer**, a star athlete who was killed in the Vietnam War in 1967. His remains were not identified until last January.

Ahlmeyer's soccer coach, **Joe Famellette**, Professor of Physical Education, who has served on the faculty for 44 years, donated \$3,000 with his wife Judy to fund a scholarship in Heinz's name. The annual \$250 scholarship will be available to a graduate of Pearl River HS, Ahlmeyer's alma mater, who is active in athletics and community service, and has a GPA of at least 2.5.

Ahlmeyer is remembered by friends and loved ones as a friendly person and gifted athlete. In addition to playing soccer, he was co-captain of the College's 1963 wrestling team. He transferred to SUNY New Paltz where his soccer coach, **Al Miller**, said his toughness and passion were legendary. He also swam backstroke and played baseball at New Paltz.

Ahlmeyer was killed in the Quang-Tri province of Vietnam on his first day of active duty. He

was the subject of several local ceremonies by veteran's groups upon the discovery of his body.



Diamond Dairy of Westchester participates in the RCC Foundation Golf Outing: (l to r) **Bud Augustine, Chuck Arnone, George Policello and Steve Breznicky.**

## Foundation Golf Outing Yields Highest Proceeds in 22 Year History

A record \$47,000 in scholarship funds was raised by the Rockland Community College Foundation at their 22nd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing in August at the Spook Rock Golf Course. The event, which attracted over 160 golfers from businesses across Rockland County, topped last year's then record net of just over \$40,000.

The Foundation selected its Treasurer, **Eric Dranoff**, of commercial law firm Saretsky, Katz, Dranoff & Glass, LLP, as "Person of the Year" for his service to the College, the Foundation and the community. He co-chaired the Golf Outing with **Eric Black** of All Types Advertising.

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## New Haverstraw Center Offers "Home Away from Home"



**Ann Dworkis**, adjunct faculty, Social Sciences, oversees students **Charles Rainey**, **Mirna Franco**, **Angel Delacruz** and **Angeline Tomassu** in the new Haverstraw Center.

**Jorge Olivio**, a 24-year-old Haverstraw resident, can finally stretch his legs. Olivio, who is enrolled in classes at the College's new Haverstraw Extension Center, used to take evening classes at the College's former site in the Haverstraw Middle School. "I felt like a little kid, sitting in cramped desks. It feels better now," he said.

Olivio and over 300 other students enrolled in courses at the new center are now learning in brand-new classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology, such as desks with built-in computers and digital projectors that project images onto a screen from a lens built into the ceiling.

The new center attracts the interest of passersby and local residents. "Every day, another eight or ten people stop by to ask me what courses will be offered next semester and just to look around," said **Brian Merritt**, Director. "And teachers love the versatility of the classrooms," he added.

The facility includes eight classrooms, a student lounge/internet café, a faculty advising

room, a conference room and reception/gallery area, all overseen by a 24-hour state-of-the-art security system. An evening and night shuttle bus that connects the main campus to the Haverstraw site and points in between launched its route on October 6.

Students and faculty alike are pleased with the small campus environment. "They feel like it's their own place," said Merritt. He has kept the students involved by creating a questionnaire asking their opinions about the new facility and what courses they would like offered in the future.

**Kristine Montero**, a 26-year-old Orangeburg resident, initially enrolled in courses at Haverstraw because her class on the main campus was filled. "I always wanted to be on the main campus, but now I want to come back to Haverstraw next semester," she said. "It's very self-sufficient and accommodating here."

Faculty advisors visit the Haverstraw campus twice a week to help students build their academic programs, and Merritt is working on a system with

the College Bookstore to allow students to place an order with the main store on campus and have the books shipped to the Haverstraw Center.

Courses are available in areas such as accounting, English, psychology, math, English as a Second Language and computer science, with additional offerings being developed for the Spring '06 semester. The College's Center for Personal and Professional Development is also offering non-credit courses.

**Jason Rudish**, adjunct faculty, Accounting, enjoys teaching in the new facility. "It feels almost like a home away from home," he said.

Haverstraw residents **Jeff Gerosen**, 23 and **Cathy Bueno**, 19, agreed that the new facility made their lives a lot easier and would encourage the people of Haverstraw to attend. Bueno also found the building to be aesthetically pleasing. "It dramatically improves the area," she said.

*See photos of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Center on p.5.*



**Brian Merritt**, Director of the Haverstraw Extension Center

## Free Shuttle Bus Serves Extension Centers after 5 pm

Evening and late night shuttle bus service from the College's main campus to the Extension Centers in Haverstraw, Spring Valley and surrounding communities is now available. Two shuttle buses, operated by Brega Transportation, run from 5:00 pm until 11:30 pm during Fall and Spring semesters from main campus to the Haverstraw and Spring Valley Extension Centers, and serve a "loop" around each community, ensuring that students have a ride home after night classes and activities. It also makes it easier for residents to access evening classes and programs at all three SUNY Rockland locations.

The shuttle service is free for passengers with a valid SUNY Rockland student ID. It is funded by a federal grant secured by Congressman **Eliot Engel**, and was developed based on results of a 2004 survey of 500 students of their transportation needs. Over one-fourth of SUNY Rockland students (approximately 1,500 people) rely on public transportation all or most of the time.

Transport of Rockland (TOR) has also doubled service on TOR #95 between RCC



and Haverstraw with new afternoon service that now ends at 6:20 pm from main campus to Haverstraw.

Shuttle bus route schedules are available through the Office of Student Involvement at 574-4373 or on the College website.

# Milestones

## Dr. Cliff L. Wood Inaugurated as Sixth President of SUNY Rockland Community College

A new era has begun at SUNY Rockland as **Dr. Cliff L. Wood** was inaugurated president after 16 months on the job. “My mission is to create a student-centered institution responsive to the economic and social needs of the Rockland community and to permanently put the political turmoil of past presidencies to rest,” said Dr. Wood.

Ceremonies took place September 18 in the Cultural Arts Center Theater, followed by a reception in the College courtyard. Guests in attendance included Wood’s friends from childhood days in Texas, family members and current and former colleagues.

Rockland County Executive **C. Scott Vanderhoef** has seen the college go through several eras

and felt that things were looking up. “This is the best it’s ever been,” he said.

Chair of the Rockland Legislature **Harriet Cornell** lauded Wood, saying his “can-do spirit brings a new level of energy to the institution. Thanks to Dr. Wood, the College will be all about community.”

Keynote speaker **Dr. Gwendolyn Dungy**, Executive Director of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators praised Dr. Wood for his tireless work ethic and his seeming ability to be in all places at all times.

Other speakers at the event included Vice Admiral **John Ryan**, Acting SUNY Chancellor; **Dr. Arlene Clinkscale**, Chair, Board of

Trustees; **Andrew Wuthrich**, student trustee, **Alden Wolfe**, Chair, RCC Foundation and **Peter Arvanites**, President, Faculty Senate.

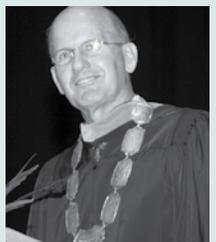
A commemorative poem by **Dan Masterson**, Professor of English and published poet, captured the theme of the inauguration. The poem, “An Eclogue Foretelling Halcyon Days,” praised the character and charm of a man charged with the duty of “reclaiming all that needs to be reclaimed.” Halcyon is a synonym for calm, and hopes were high throughout SUNY Rockland that Wood’s inauguration and the new campus construction projects would herald a new era of success and prosperity at the College.



Presidential regalia



Dr. Cliff L. Wood



SUNY Chancellor (Acting)  
Vice Admiral **John R. Ryan**

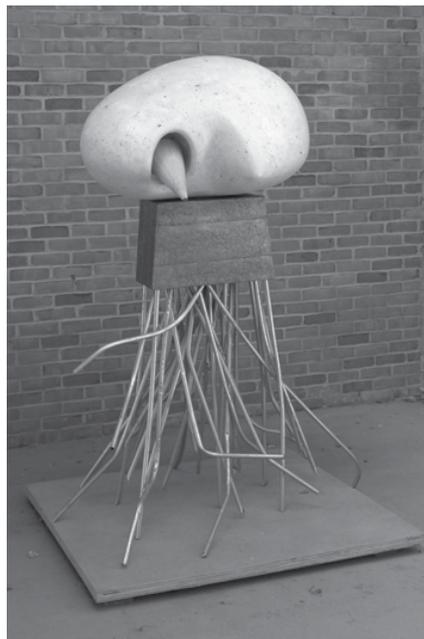
## In the Community

### Art Students League Exhibits Sculpture at Presidential Inauguration

A major sculpture exhibition featuring the work of artists and faculty of the Art Students League opened on SUNY Rockland’s campus at the Presidential Inauguration. Eight Visions: A Sculpture Exhibition, presented by The Vytlacil Campus of the Art Students League in Sparkill and the College’s Art Department, featured sculptures by **James Garvey**, **Silya Kiese**, **Grace Knowlton**, **Leonid Lerman**, **Anthony Padovano**, **Peter Reginato**, **Gary Lawrence Sussman** and **Greg Wyatt**.

The exhibit reflects the College’s continued appreciation and support of the arts, providing cultural and educational enrichment for students and the local community. It also recognizes Dr. Wood’s longtime personal support of the arts and of the creation of ARTSPACE, an art gallery for the College, expected to open next year.

This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of the Art Students League and loans from the Adelson Galleries, NY; Fog Hill & Co., NY; McKee Gallery, NY; and private collections.



A sculpture by **Gary Lawrence Sussman** exhibited on campus by the Art Students League



Art student **Jennifer Lowery** leads a mask-making activity at the College’s two-day Mardi-Gras themed Hurricane Katrina Fair, which raised over \$4,400 to benefit hurricane victims. The funds were distributed to several hurricane relief charities, including Habitat for Humanity, Children’s Health Fund, Humane Society, NAACP, Louisiana Community College and the Heifer Fund.

# Milestones

## Ribbon-Cuttings: Student Union & Haverstraw Extension Center



Student government leaders **Sarah Beckford** and **Stephen Jean-Louis** perform the ribbon-cutting for the newly renovated Student Union on September 19, surrounded by (l to r) **Jay Holt**, Holt Construction; **Robert H. Gruffi**, Director of Facilities Management, Rockland County; **Mort Meyers**, VP for Finance & Administration; **Harriet Cornell**, Chair, Rockland County Legislature; President **Cliff L. Wood**; **Robert Schuler**, Director of Plant Facilities; County Executive **C. Scott Vanderhoef**; **Joyce Altieri**, Commissioner of General Services, Rockland County; **Tom Birdsey**, CEO, EYP Architecture & Engineering; Assemblyman **Ryan Karben** and **Chris McGrath**, Senior Architect, EYP Architecture & Engineering.



Haverstraw student **Jimmy Stalter** (center), together with fellow student **Patricio Nunez**, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremonies for the Haverstraw Extension Center, surrounded by (1st row, l to r): Trustee **Dr. Sonya Shapiro**; State Senator **Thomas Morahan**; Legislative Chair **Harriet Cornell**; Legislators **Ellen Jaffe & Roman Rodriguez**. (2nd row l to r): Trustees **Richard Kohlhausen & Caroline Osinga**, Legislator **Michael Grant**, Mayor **Bud Wassmer**, County Executive **C. Scott Vanderhoef**, Haverstraw Director **Brian Merritt**, and Trustee **Susan Ramos**.

A few weeks ahead of schedule and \$100,000 under budget, the newly renovated Student Union is now open for business. The building provides a focal point on campus for students, with spacious and comfortable areas for eating, relaxing, socializing and working. College, county and state officials, as well as students, faculty and staff celebrated the building's opening at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 19.

"I'm liking it," 18-year-old freshman **Dave Thomas** said of the new facility while surfing the internet on his laptop in the lounge, using a free wireless internet signal from the nearby library. A couple of chairs over, 20-year-old **Ellen Hollister** worked on assignments. She recalled the former Student Union as "dark and kind of depressing," calling the new facility "very open and quiet and nice." The new room is bright and alive with sunlight pouring in.

The \$5.5 million renovation project funded by the county and state also replaced the unused balcony area with a general purpose room, where the ribbon cutting ceremony took place.

Chair of the College Board of Trustees, **Dr. Arlene Clinkscale** said the new building was student oriented and student friendly and fit well with the student-centered vision of the newly inaugurated President Wood.

Renovation of the Student Union lasted less than a year. The design was handled by EYP Architecture and Engineering, and Holt Construction served as construction manager. The project was coordinated by the Rockland County Office of Facilities Management.

### Haverstraw

The new Extension Center (see page 3) is in the historic "Stone Building" on West Broad St., which was purchased and renovated by Ginsburg Development Corporation as part of its overall Haverstraw revitalization project. The facility includes eight advanced technology classrooms, an internet café/lounge, a gallery/reception area and staff offices.



U.S. Treasurer, the Honorable **Anna Escobedo Cabral**, keynote speaker for the October 20 Hispanic Heritage Achievement Awards, inspired the audience with the story of her personal journey.

## Day of Caring

College employees **Terri Kaye Needle**, **Jeanne Howell** and **Eileen Mandel** help paint the Bobby Lewis Adult Day Center at Meals on Wheels in New City during United Way's Day of Caring in October. The College's Community Involvement Committee and Human Resources department also conduct a yearly campus-wide campaign in support of the United Way.



## In the Community

# Spotlight on Alumni

## Nelli Biktacheva

Nelli Biktacheva '99 emigrated from her hometown of Ekaterinburg in the Ural mountains of Russia to study business in the United States, entering the MgD Business Honors program at SUNY Rockland in Fall 1997. She served as President of the Alpha Beta Gamma business honors society and graduated with an associate's degree in Business Administration.

The honors program helped her get on her desired career track, which has already led to jobs in some of the top financial firms in New York City, including Citigroup and Salomon Smith Barney.

"MgD opened so many doors for me and helped me find a direction," she said.

Those doors also led to an Ivy League education in the fields of economics and business, first at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated with a 3.8 GPA, and currently at Columbia University Business School, where she is seeking her master's degree.

Though Biktacheva was far from home when she was a freshman at SUNY Rockland, she jumped right into the swing of things, gaining an internship at Paine Webber through MgD, an experience she describes as boosting her confidence and being critical to her future success.

An advantage she found at SUNY Rockland was that many of the professors were

real world practitioners in the field. She cites **Martin Ginsberg**, Associate Professor of Business, for encouraging his students to keep on top of the business news. She also credits **Martin Lecker**, Ed.D., Chair, Business Technologies, for ensuring that all her SUNY Rockland credits were accepted to the University of Pennsylvania.

Following her graduation from Pennsylvania, Biktacheva worked for two years at Salomon Smith Barney as a financial analyst and for a year at Citigroup as an Assistant Vice President of Strategy and Business Development Group.

Her parents, brother and extended family still live in Ekaterinburg, Russia and are very proud of her accomplishments, Biktacheva said. She is an avid horseback rider and enjoys wine-tasting.

## Jonathan Colton

Jonathan Colton '90 credits his time in SUNY Rockland's MT/S honors program with kick-starting a passion for knowledge and achievement that has continued to this day. The 37-year-old graduate of University of Pennsylvania is now executive vice-president of Homecare Partners, Inc., a healthcare provider in New York City.

"I never applied myself in high school, never had direction. High school felt like mandatory daycare," Colton said. "But when I went to RCC, I had much more of an idea of

why I was there. I felt like I could improve myself and get ahead."

He started his first semester enrolled in a normal regimen of courses when one of his professors recommended the MT/S Honors Program, where the more serious learning environment had a very positive influence. One outstanding aspect of the program was his relationship with his mentors, who he said were like surrogate parents.

"The MT/S honors program is like a whole other world in RCC, hidden away," said Colton, who served a term as president of the Student Government Association. He found SUNY Rockland to be the ideal gateway between childhood and the realities of adulthood.

After graduating from SUNY Rockland with an honors degree in Liberal Arts/Humanities and Social Science, Colton continued his education at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned a master's in Government Administration and went on to work as a political consultant before becoming an executive in the health care industry.

Colton continues to study the way people live and how society can be made freer and more ethical, and hopes to be a lifelong learner. "Never stop growing and learning," he said. He lives in New York City with his wife Hideko and 1-year-old son Taiga. His parents, **Martin** and **Susan Colton**, moved to Suffern after raising Jonathan in Pomona.



**Nelli Biktacheva**



**Jonathan Colton**

# Special Opportunities

## College's Teacher Education Programs Expand

Aspiring teachers have found a welcoming place to start their journey in SUNY Rockland's Teacher Education program, one of the College's most popular areas of study. Students can attain a certificate in Early Childhood Development or a degree in Liberal Arts/Elementary Education. Transfer opportunities to bachelor's and master's programs are also available.

Coordinated by Professor **Debra Courtney Tietze** since 1990, the program now serves over 250 students. "New opportunities are always emerging in the profession because teachers are in high demand," Tietze said, also citing the high retirement rate of teachers in the area.

The Teacher's Education program also serves teacher's assistants, who are now required by federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation to have a

minimum of 21 college credits and a passing score on the NYS Teaching Assistants Exam to maintain their positions. Working closely with the Rockland Teacher's Center Institute, the College developed a specialized program of courses for teaching assistants conveniently offered in the late afternoon in the public schools. Over 100 TAs have already taken advantage of this option.

Teacher education at SUNY Rockland became especially attractive to adult students thanks to a 2001 federal grant that created Preparing Adults for Careers in Education (PACT). The U.S. Department of Education provided \$450,000 over the course of four years for the College to help close to 500 adults transition into teaching careers.

One participant was **Russell Stephen**, a 44-year-old wine manufacturer who wanted

to change careers to make a positive impact in people's lives. Stephen said he was very satisfied with his experience at the College, where he spent time as a counselor at a local group home for the deaf and was certified as a teaching assistant. Stephen graduated in Spring 2005 and is now pursuing his bachelor's degree at Dominican College.

The PACT grant also funded a partnership with the College of New Rochelle, which offered their master's degree program in Special Education/Early Childhood to a cohort of 22 students on the SUNY Rockland campus.

The building of a brand new childcare center at SUNY Rockland in the near future will provide additional hands-on opportunities for education students.

## College Partners with American Institute of Banking

Local bank employees can take college courses and earn banking certification simultaneously at SUNY Rockland, thanks to a new partnership between the College and the American Institute of Banking (AIB). The College now offers a Business degree with an emphasis in banking. SUNY Rockland is one of few community colleges in the tri-state area to offer AIB certified courses.

The new program enables bank employees to work simultaneously toward an AAS degree in Business Administration while also earning credits toward AIB Diplomas and Certificates, or to enroll in AIB courses at the College on a non-degree basis and earn valuable AIB credit.

Executives from Sound Federal, Union State, Provident, Bank of New York, Paragon Federal Credit Union, M&T Bank, HSBC and Commerce Bank have lent their support to the project. Fifteen local bank employees are participating. Program advisor and instructor **Ray Robinson** formerly served as Bronx Division Head, Chemical Bank (now JP Morgan-Chase).

For more information contact **Dr. Martin Lecker**, Chair, Business Technologies Division, at (845) 574-4583 or [mlecker@sunyrockland.edu](mailto:mlecker@sunyrockland.edu).

## College Offers Onsite Courses to Rockland Psychiatric Center Employees

The 1,700 employees of Rockland Psychiatric Center can now study toward their college degree without leaving their worksite, thanks to a new collaboration with SUNY Rockland.

Over thirty employees spend one or two evenings a week taking English 101 and Psychology 103. The courses will count for college credit toward an associate's degree, and can also be used toward a GED if the employee does not have a high school diploma. Each course is

offered one night per week from 5-8:30 pm. Employees take the college courses on their own time and are responsible for tuition, however, many qualify for financial aid or receive tuition reimbursement from their union.

"This relationship between two of Rockland's largest and most recognizable institutions can only benefit all involved," said **Dr. Cliff L. Wood**, President of SUNY Rockland.

"Our hospital is grateful to SUNY Rockland for its flexible and prompt response to the educational needs of our staff and the agencies on our campus," said **James Bopp**, Executive Director of RPC. Bopp also credited Legislator **John Murphy** of the RPC Board of Visitors for facilitating this collaborative venture.

For further information, contact **Bill Baker**, VP for Academic Affairs, (845) 574-4280, [bbaker@sunyrockland.edu](mailto:bbaker@sunyrockland.edu).

# Achievements

## STUDENTS



*Kaoru Miyauchi at Carnegie Hall*

**Kaoru Miyauchi**, an international student from Japan, performed a piano solo at Carnegie Hall at the Annual Student Recital presented by the Bradshaw & Buono Conservatory of Music in October.

**Susan Perry**, a Performing Arts student and member of the Lenape tribe, took first place in the Women's Fancy Shawl competition at the 2005 Lenape-Ramapough PowWow (Ringwood Manor, NJ).

### *Hispanic Heritage Awards*

The following students received the Hispanic Students Awards at an awards ceremony featuring U.S. Treasurer **Anna Escobedo**

**Cabral** as keynote speaker (October 20, Cultural Arts Theater):  
**Tiffanie Amador & Michael Garcia**, Academic Achievement

**Hercy Gonzalez**, Leadership Achievement

**Lauren Lopez**, Artistic Achievement

**Aide Ovalle**, Personal Achievement

**Jaime Ruiz, Jr.**, Athletic Achievement

### *Literary Magazine Wins Again*

The College's literary magazine, *Impulse*, won second place in the annual Community College Humanities Association literary magazine awards, Eastern Division, making it the sixth consecutive year that *Impulse* has placed. Faculty advisor:

**Reamy Jansen**, Professor of English. Creative supervisor:  
**Dave Pirell**, adjunct faculty, Art.

### *Perfect Scores for Rockland Graduates*

The pass rate for the May 2005 Nursing graduates for the national certification exam (NCLEX) was 100%.

The pass rate for the 2005 graduates of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program for the national certifying examination was 100%.

### *Laughing to Learn*

Over 40 Performing Arts students participated in a humorous intercampus exchange with a visiting student improvisation group from Duke University on October 11. Improvisational comedy techniques were presented in the event, arranged by **Patti Maloney-Titland**, Associate Professor of Performing Arts.

## FACULTY & STAFF Top Newspaper Adviser

**Ian Newman**, Assistant Professor of English and Faculty Adviser to *Outlook Student Press*, won the 2005 Distinguished Adviser Award in the Two-Year College Newspaper category from College Media Advisers, Inc. (CMA). The award was presented at the National College Media Convention (October, Kansas City).

### *Technology Training*

College employees upgraded their skills in technology and database management thanks to a \$30,000 grant from State Senator **Thomas P. Morahan**. Training was overseen by **Jeanne Buckley**, Ed.D., Vice-President for Planning & Technology.

*Nursing faculty members **Sue Reilly, Donna Peters** and **Jeanne Linhart** sit on a new granite bench on campus commemorating the contribution of nurses to the community. The Professional Nurses Association of Rockland County donated the bench to the College in honor of Rockland County's 23rd Annual Nurse Recognition Day in May. The*



*engraving on the bench reads "Nursing Our Community: Mind, Body and Spirit."*

  
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RCC Foundation

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