

THE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE 2023-24

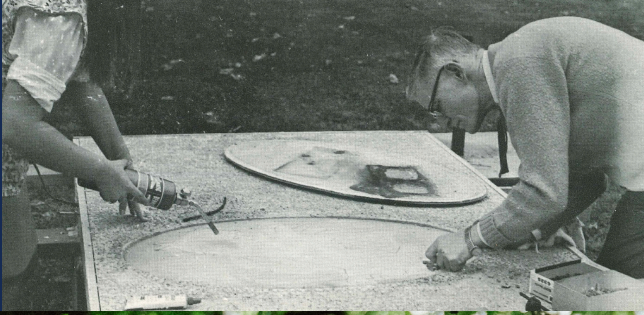
# CONNECTION



*SCOTTIE FLASHBACK: Dr. William Moorman Boone, MD was dedicated and unveiled at a ceremony on April 21, 2001. He was a physician, community leader, educator and Highland College Trustee. The sculptor was Corey Boone Nelson, granddaughter of Dr. Boone.*

**H** **HIGHLAND**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE





*SCOTTIE FLASHBACK: This sign has stood on our main campus's lawn for over 50 years. It was a student art project led by Walter Yost. The picture (left) shows him repairing the stones on the backside. The wood on the front was originally Highland Community Junior College then replaced with Highland Community College when our name changed in 1980. It was erected around 1970.*





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## MEET YOUR FOUNDATION & ALUMNI STAFF



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## ADMINISTRATION

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Dr. Eric Ingmire, *Vice President for Student Services*  
Andrew Gutschenritter, *Vice President for Finance & Operations*  
Lucas Hunziger, *Vice President for Technical Education*

## HCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Verney Coy '72  
William N. "Bill" Noll '67  
Mark Rounds '78  
Tom Smith '64  
Jason Taylor '90  
Carl Tharman '83

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Shawn Loyd '77  
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Ex-Officio Keith Jaloma, *Exec Director, HCC Foundation*  
Tom Smith '64, *Trustee Liaison*  
Paul Crawford '70, *Alumni Liaison*

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Ellen (Miller) Beaman '71  
Daniel Brenner '76  
Lexy Clark '12  
Doris Delzeit '78  
Greg Delzeit '72  
Alicia (Roberts) Deters '95  
Vanetta (Blevins) Geiger '78  
Roger Gormley '66  
Glendon Hartman '73  
Megan (Blevins) Jeschke '03  
Barbara (Tuggle) Morrow '84  
Jaime (Kohlmeyer) Terry '03  
Mike Todd '84  
Kelly (Blevins) Twombly '83, *Director of Alumni Relations*

\* Flashbacks throughout *The Connection* magazine are from the book "The History of Highland Community College" by Arlyn J. Parish and from student yearbooks.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends,

At Highland Community College, our mission challenges every Scottie to enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve. Each of us is charged with providing value beyond the boundaries of our campuses, while also promoting our programs of distinction at Highland Community College.

Our collective passion for enhancing the quality of life of our students, alumni, friends and neighbors is one of the reasons I am most excited to serve as the 45th President.

In this edition of our magazine, you will read about many distinctive examples of programs and initiatives that include our students, faculty, staff and alumni working individually and collectively to promote our shared mission.

For example, this fall, the Highland Community College Technical Center in Atchison will open its doors to their first group of students enrolled in Precision Agriculture classes. Students enrolled in the Precision Agriculture program learn content such as GPS soil sampling, remote sensing technology, computer-based application and variable rate technology.

The College is also excited to celebrate 10-years of success operating our Western Center. Read on to learn more about how the Western Center is impacting the lives of students in Northeast Kansas.

And finally, read about how the Highland Community College Board of Trustees approved a new tuition and fee rate of \$65 per credit hour for Kansas high school students. The reduced rate is a significant cost savings compared to the previous \$147 per credit hour for high school students and their families, making higher education more affordable and accessible for our students.

I am proud and grateful to everyone highlighted in this edition of The Connection. Your dedication and hard work makes Highland Community College the destination of choice for a quality education for students in Northeast Kansas. And I am proud of those Scotties who are also doing important work, but who are not mentioned in these pages. I hope these stories inspire you to continue our mission of enhancing the quality of life for our people and our communities we serve.

Sincerely,

**DR. VINCENT BOWHAY**  
President  
Highland Community College







*Dr. Eric Ingmire, Lucas Hunziger, Dr. Vincent Bowhay, Andrew Gutschenritter, & Keith Jaloma*

## COLLEGE NEWS

### MEET THE LEADERSHIP

**Dr. Vincent Bowhay, President** Dr. Vincent Bowhay's association with Highland Community College first began as a student taking college courses while still in high school at Royal Valley in Hoyt, Kansas. He holds a bachelor's degree from Washburn University, a master of arts from Ball State University and a doctor of education from Baker University. He completed Stanford University's executive leadership program in 2022. Prior to accepting the presidency at HCC, Bowhay held administrative positions at Independence Community College, Missouri Western State University, Fort Hays State University and Campus Labs.

His most recent book, "The Proper Role of Higher Education in a Democratic Society," re-examines the role higher education plays in preparing students for a life of civic engagement and community leadership. Bowhay was one of 25 leaders nationwide selected for the 2021-22 class of the Aspen New Presidents Fellowship.

"I cherish the opportunity to serve others, and I am passionate about working with students. It is clear to me that when students graduate from Highland Communi-

ty College, they leave with the skills and spirit needed to solve challenges employers and society are facing today. Our alumni are highly-skilled community leaders moving Kansas forward as a whole."

**Andrew Gutschenritter, Vice President for Finance & Operations** Andrew Gutschenritter comes from Neodesha, Kansas where he was born and raised. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Ottawa University and his Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting from Pittsburg State University. Before his time with Highland Community College, he worked for Independence Community College as the Controller.

Andrew is married to his wife Alexa and has two sons, Baker (4) and Brees (2). They enjoy going on walks together with their corgi, Mack, and spending time outside fishing and going to parks together.

"My family and I are excited to join the community and become active throughout. I believe Highland is a great place to work with lots of potential for growth. I look forward to making a positive impact and change to carry Highland forward for several years."



### **Dr. Eric Ingmire, Vice President for Student Services**

Dr. Eric Ingmire came to the College from the Fremont campus of Pueblo Community College where he was the Director of Student Services. A native Kansan, Ingmire graduated from Berean Academy in Elbing, Kansas. He attended Manhattan Christian College earning a bachelor's degree then Kansas State University earning a master's degree in Counseling and Student Development. He completed his doctorate from Grand Canyon University in Organizational Leadership.

In addition to his role at Pueblo, Ingmire served as Director of Admissions at his alma mater, Manhattan Christian College, where he was also the soccer coach for MCC's NCCAA DII National Champions. He is a member of NAACP, NACADA and is a trained and experienced Title IX Investigator. He has been a Board member for the Boys and Girls Club, the Community Relations Board for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Chair of the Rotary Leadership Academy.

"HCC fosters a collaborative environment where both employees and students thrive. The commitment to excellence and the supportive community makes it a fulfilling place to contribute and grow professionally. Student success at Highland Community College is our top priority, and we are dedicated to providing the resources and support needed for every student to achieve their goals. We celebrate each milestone as a testament to their hard work and perseverance."

### **Lucas Hunziger, Vice President for Technical Education**

Lucas Hunziger, came to Highland Community College from USD #449 where he was an industrial technology instructor for 12-years. He previously served as Director of the HCC Technical Center in Atchison for seven-years. Lucas is a native Kansan graduating from Atchison High School before earning his bachelor's in Technology Education from Pittsburg State University.

He also holds a master's in Education from Baker University and a master's in School Leadership from Benedictine College.

"I am very excited about all of our technical education programs across our service area and look forward to providing new offerings. I am very excited about the expansion of Precision Ag at the Technical Center in Atchison. The best part of my job is seeing the success of our students, staff and faculty as we train the new workforce and see the difference it makes in our students' lives and in the communities we serve."

**Keith Jaloma, Foundation Executive Director** After graduation from Conway Springs High School, Keith Jaloma attended K-State. His career started in the grain industry before transitioning to an IT recruiter. He has now been in higher education for 34-years. He and his lovely wife have been married for 40-years. Together, they have six children and six grandsons (and counting). He enjoys good artwork and doing anything outside, especially golf.

"Highland's new leadership team is communicative and collaborative resulting in many accomplishments already. It's a great time to be a Scottie!"



Former President Fox and Keith Jaloma

### **FAREWELL FORMER PRESIDENT DEBORAH FOX**

HCC's 44th President of Highland Community College, Deborah Fox, retired June 30, 2024. Fox began her duties as president in July 2019 although she was no stranger to HCC having served as Vice President of Finance before returning in 2019.

In the 2019 fall semester, President Fox, her staff and the HCC Foundation Board reset the financial picture for the coming year, but were faced with an additional challenge in March 2020 with the COVID pandemic. Despite the difficulties posed by Covid, she, along with her faculty and staff, ensured the completion of the spring semester through zoom and online classes.

As the fall 2020 semester resumed, Fox took charge as the Covid coordinator, prioritizing the health of the student body with extensive testing, isolation measures and adjustments to the fall sports schedule by moving fall sports to the spring. The commitment to overcoming these challenges reflects her dedication to student success. Under Fox's leadership she successfully addressed the closing of the local laundry mat with overseeing the construction of an on campus facility benefiting the student body.

In 2022, along with the help and planning of the HCC Foundation, her focus shifted to the HCC Technical Center in Atchison with a new diesel technology building. In addition, the ventilation renovation project for the existing welding technology building was completed. Further contributing to the development of the College's infrastructure, a pole barn was built in August 2023 to house equipment for the precision agriculture program at the HCC Western Center in Baileyville. Throughout these projects, President Fox managed day to day college operations.

*SCOTTIE FLASHBACK: Our longest serving president was David Reist who served as HCC president from 2001-2019. Prior to serving as our president, he served as Dean of Students, the Director of Financial Aid as well as teaching and coaching at HCC.*





### **HCC EARNS THE PRESTIGIOUS 2024 KBOR DATA QUALITY AWARD**

At the June Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) 2024 Data Quality and Planning Conference, KBOR President and CEO, Dr. Blake Flanders, presented Data Quality Awards to Highland Community College and Wichita State University Technical College (Wichita Tech). Jeff Hurn, HCC Director of Institutional Research, was in attendance to receive the award.

“Winning the 2024 Data Quality Award from KBOR is a remarkable achievement for Highland Community College, and it is a team award earned by all of our hard-working employees who strive every day to collect, coordinate, communicate and submit good local, state and federal data on behalf of the many stakeholders we serve,” remarked Hurn.

Now in its twelfth year, the prestigious annual KBOR Data Quality Award serves to recognize institutions for excellence in the quality of data submitted and the timeliness of submissions. Awards are given each June to the two Kansas institutions with superior ratings, recognizing the outstanding team of professionals who provide institutional data to the Board. This year, each awardee scored the highest points of institutions from its sector, either for community colleges or for technical-only colleges.

KBOR stated, “Data is key for understanding the performance of today’s higher education system, as well as the state’s economy. Providing quality and meaningful data requires dedicated data teams. This year’s awardees have distinguished themselves through exemplary effort and commitment to the highest data standards.”

KBOR went on to say, “Strong data reporting is critical to our success in serving students, their parents, the Board of Regents, the Legislature and the Governor. The superior quality and accessibility of higher education data in Kansas is invaluable for data-driven decision-making, and only possible through a well-orchestrated effort by so many dedicated individuals.”

Data is submitted to KBOR throughout the year to support a variety of purposes, including distribution formulas for state and federal funds, Board and legislative agendas, research initiatives, federal and state compliance, employment follow-up for graduates and consumer information such as the tools found on the Kansas Higher Education Statistics and the Kansas Degree Stats websites ([stats.kansasregents.org](http://stats.kansasregents.org) and [ksdegrees-tats.org](http://ksdegrees-tats.org)). Data is also provided at the federal level to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) which is state-certified through KBOR annually.

Highland Community College is proud to receive the Kansas Board of Regents Data Quality Award for 2024.

### **EARLY COLLEGE COST CHANGE**

HCC’s Board of Trustees approved a reduced tuition and fee rate of \$65 per credit hour for Kansas high school students. This new rate is a significant cost savings compared to the previous \$147 per credit hour, making higher education more accessible across the state.

According to Sara Smith, Assistant Dean of Instruction of Early College (formerly known as concurrent), the aim of the new rate is to expand access to early college opportunities, particularly transferable general education courses. Doniphan County high school students continue to benefit from free tuition and fees. The Early College program at HCC serves over 1500 students and approximately 50 high schools each semester through online, face-to-face, technical and concurrent offerings.

*For more information on early college visit [highlandcc.edu/gettingstarted-ec](http://highlandcc.edu/gettingstarted-ec)*

*SCOTTIE FLASHBACK: The tuition at Highland University in 1870 was \$12 per term or \$36 per year. (We operated on trimesters.) Room and board was between \$3 and \$3.50 per week. It was possible for a student to attend Highland University for about \$150 per year. This may not seem expensive compared to costs today, but it prevented many students from attending for financial reasons.*



# REGIONAL NEWS



## TECHNICAL CENTER ACHIEVES 100% NCLEX-PN PASS RATE FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the second year in a row, Highland Community College Technical Center's Practical Nursing students have achieved a remarkable 100% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-PN assessment for licensure as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).

As of December 2023, the national pass rate for first-time test takers on the NCLEX-PN, as reported by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), is just over 86%. This makes HCCTC's achievement even more impressive and a testament to the quality of our nursing program.

Anna Fowler, HCCTC Director of Nursing, commented, "This is the second class to take the NCLEX-PN with the NextGen (NGN) style of questions. The NGN was developed in response to research indicating that nearly one-fourth of medical errors involve newly licensed nurses in their first year of practice. The NGN-style questions are designed to assess clinical judgment and critical thinking skills, which are essential for safe and effective nursing practice."

In the United States, aspiring nurses must pass the NCLEX examination to become licensed. The NCLEX-PN is designed for those who have earned a certificate in practical nursing, while the NCLEX-RN is for those with an associate or bachelor's degree in nursing. Both exams evaluate nursing knowledge and the ability to make sound clinical decisions, manage complex processes and handle challenging situations that nurses will encounter in their careers.

The demand for practical nurses is on the rise. According to O-Net Online, employment opportunities for LPNs are projected to grow by 6% between 2020 and 2030. Similarly, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the registered nursing workforce will increase by 6% over the next decade, growing from 3.1 million in 2021 to 3.3 million in 2031. This growth includes an anticipated 203,200 job openings for RNs each year through 2031, driven by retirements and other workforce exits.

*To learn more about HCCTC's practical nursing program in Atchison, visit [highlandcc.edu/LPN](http://highlandcc.edu/LPN).*

## TEN YEARS OF WESTERN CENTER

The HCC Western Center celebrated its tenth year of operation with graduation May 10.

The HCC Western Center, located in Baileyville, opened its doors in the summer of 2014, offering general education classes and Certified Nursing Aide classes. The technical program classes that began in August were Diesel Technology, Medical Assistant and Welding Technology. Allied Health classes, such as CNA and Certified Medication Aide, were also offered. After the first year, they had one graduate from the Welding Technology program.

"Highland Community College was diligent about surveying the surrounding communities to determine their needs and which technical programs were first to launch at the Center," reflected Cara Baker, HCC Western Center Director.

Initially, the Western Center served nine public high schools for technical training during the day also offering general education classes throughout the day and in the evening. (With the closure of Wetmore High School in 2023, they now serve eight high schools.) They also serve quite a few students from various home school entities. Annually, the Western Center typically enrolls 125-150 students.

In 2015, Construction Technology was added to the Center's offerings, followed by Precision Agriculture in 2016. By May 2018, the Western Center's commencement ceremony was moved to Baileyville. The most recent program addition was Early Childhood, introduced in 2022. The Western Center continues to offer Allied Health and general education classes in addition to technical programs. This past May, the Western Center had 40 candidates for graduation.

Former HCC President David Reist was this year's Western Center commencement speaker. He was integral in acquiring the former B&B school building and completing renovations to fit technical program training needs in this part of the HCC service area. At the time of acquisition, HCC was awarded a grant to help cover the cost of the startup of the facility, developing Allied Health offerings and the Precision Agriculture program.

Not only has the Western Center continued to provide a place for educational training opportunities for students, it has been a place for career opportunities for local residents. As of May 2023, five of the seven original faculty and staff members who were hired were still working at the Western Center. As of this May, there were still four of the original employees at the Center. Most of the employee changes were due to retirements.

"The Western Center team is committed to its long-term success. Providing this type of resource to the





2024 Cheers Kansas Wine Event

area is a mission we all believe in," said Baker.

*For more information about class offerings or enrollment at HCC's Western Center in Baileyville, contact them at 785-442-6240, [western@highlandcc.edu](mailto:western@highlandcc.edu) or visit [highlandcc.edu/WesternCenter](http://highlandcc.edu/WesternCenter).*

### **PRECISION AGRICULTURE ADDED AT TECHNICAL CENTER**

This fall, Highland Community College Technical Center in Atchison will open its doors to their first group of students enrolled in Precision Agriculture classes.

Students enrolled in the Precision Agriculture program learn content such as GPS soil sampling, remote sensing technology, computer-based application and variable rate technology. Students completing a certificate or degree in Precision Agriculture will be well-equipped to navigate the demands of modern farming on their own farm operations or obtain positions such as Precision Ag Technicians at implement dealers, Crop Specialists, Nutrient Management Specialists, Precision Ag Department Managers, Precision Agronomists or Precision Farming Coordinators.

Jacob Chalfant was hired as the first Precision Agriculture instructor at HCCTC. He grew up in northeast Kansas working around row crop and cattle operations. After graduating from Kansas State with a degree in Ag Education, he took a job locally as a high school ag teacher where he's been for the last three-years. He and his wife also run a cow-calf operation with their two dogs, Doc and Fritz.

"When I'm not teaching, judging or checking cows, you'll find me outside enjoying nature. I'm excited to join the faculty at Highland and look forward to teaching Precision Agriculture this fall," stated Chalfant.

Precision Agriculture classes have been taught at HCC since the fall of 2016. Students enrolled in Precision Ag

classes may work toward a one-year certificate or an associate in applied science degree. For more information about Precision Agriculture classes or enrollment, contact the Technical Center at 785-442-6180, [hcctc@highlandcc.edu](mailto:hcctc@highlandcc.edu) or visit [highlandcc.edu/PrecisionAg](http://highlandcc.edu/PrecisionAg).

### **CHEERS KANSAS WINE FESTIVAL IS A SUCCESS**

The Highland Community College Viticulture and Enology Program, in collaboration with the Kansas Departments of Agriculture (KDA) and Commerce (KDC), successfully hosted the inaugural Cheers Kansas Wine festival May 11 at Wamego's City Park. The event showcased 14 Kansas wineries and eight local food vendors from KDAs From the Land of Kansas program, with additional support from the Kansas Agritourism program.

Scott Kohl, HCC Director of Viticulture and Enology, reflected, "It was a perfect day! Great weather, great food, excellent music and wonderful wines. We couldn't have asked for a better event. We can't wait until 2025!"

A total of 468 tickets were sold both online and at the gate, providing attendees with a variety of wine and food samples. Participants also had the opportunity to purchase unopened bottles of wine and various food items to enjoy at home. The festival featured live music on two stages and additional food options from the Jammin' Jamaican food truck.

Event participants enjoyed ideal weather conditions with clear skies, 80-degrees and a light breeze. Attendees praised the event and expressed enthusiasm for next year's festival. Both winery representatives and food vendors appreciated their inclusion and expressed interest in returning in 2025.

HCC Viticulture and Enology extends its gratitude to the Kansas Departments of Agriculture and Commerce for their sponsorship and support in making this event a remarkable success. Preparations for the 2025 festival are already under way.



# SCOTTIE ATHLETICS



## LETTER FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Hello Scottie Family!

It has been a year since I was honored by being named athletic director at Highland Community College, and I sincerely appreciate all of the friendships and support that has been shown toward me and all of our athletic programs.

The 2023-24 school year was memorable for Scottie athletics, headlined by the Scottie football team finishing the season ranked #15 in the final national poll and a third-place finish in the always tough KJCCC. It was the highest final ranking in school history. We saw the return of volleyball after a canceled season in 2022. Both HCC basketball programs advanced to the semi-finals of the Region VI tournament in March and Scottie track and field produced many memories including four men's and two women's new school records being set.

In the classroom, HCC athletics produced nine First-Team, 11 Second-Team and 14 Third-Team National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-Americans. We also had 49 student-athletes named to the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Academic All-Conference Team in 2023-24. As always, we are proud of our Scottie athletes and can't wait to see how they perform in the classroom this coming academic school year.

The upcoming year looks as promising as ever for Scottie athletics. We will see the return of women's soccer at HCC this fall. We are excited that in this post-COVID era, almost all of our athletic program rosters are finally running at near capacity. We have hired some new head and assistant coaches and are feeling as ready as ever to take on the athletic season ahead.

I would like to invite all Scottie alumni and friends to attend an HCC athletic event. We are grateful to our Alumni Association for providing reunions and events to bring Scotties back to reminisce.

*All of our Scottie athletic schedules may be found at [scottieathletics.com](http://scottieathletics.com). If you are unable to attend a game in person you can stream it live at [scottieathletics.com/watchlive](http://scottieathletics.com/watchlive).*

Go Scotties!

**JERRE COLE '91**  
Athletic Director  
Highland Community College





## HCC VOLLEYBALL HOSTS INAUGURAL 4-STATE ALL-STAR VOLLEYBALL GAME

Highland Community College hosted an exciting display of volleyball prowess when players from neighboring states gathered for the inaugural HCC 4-State All-Star Volleyball game Sunday, April 14. The event was a thrilling match for fans of competitive volleyball.

HCC also welcomed Jolene Bannister and Vicki Hubin as officials for the event.

Many of these talented players will join the HCC volleyball team this fall, including Rylee Seelhoff, Cierra Poldberg, Jaala Stewart, Rayah Foltz, Jordyn Renk, Karsyn Kempinger and Gracie Klecan.

Congratulations to all the selected 4-State All-Star Volleyball players as you made history at Highland. We look forward to Highland volleyball taking the court this fall in Ben Allen Field House. The first home match is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 5:30 p.m. versus Labette Community College. We hope to see you there!

## FOOTBALL RANKED 15TH IN COUNTRY

The Highland Scottie football team finished the 2023 season with a record of 6-5. The Scotties were ranked #15 in the nation in the final NJCAA Football Poll. This is the first time in school history the program has finished the season ranked in the top 15. A total of 13 Scotties earned All-Conference honors, including four First-Team selections. Off the field, Scottie football earned the highest recorded team GPA in school history. This included 38 young men who earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

## HEIMAN SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR NACE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

The National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) sent the following in a letter to HCC's esports head coach, Matt Ludwick.

"We are thrilled to inform you that Carter Heiman has been selected as a finalist for the prestigious NACE Awards! Carter's outstanding achievements and contributions have not gone unnoticed, and we are honored to recognize him as a finalist for the Student Leadership Award."

Out of 18,000 student athletes who compete in NACE, Heiman is one of 15 finalists. Five winners will be chosen.

"I am extremely proud of Carter," Ludwick stated. "He has always exceeded my expectations while doing his best in school. He has been elected captain of over seven teams including one of which they earned a conference championship. I cannot think of anyone who deserves this recognition more than him."

## WOMENS SOCCER IS BACK

After some time without soccer, the college is excited to bring the women's soccer program back. The goal is to build a program of high athletic and academic standing. The team will look to find success in a competitive

conference as they rebuild the foundation of the program. This group of players coming in are motivated and excited to be a part of the return of the program to Scottie Nation. We look forward to having everyone come out and support the team this fall!

"This season will be about rebuilding the core of the soccer program here at Highland. I am excited for this group of girls to come in and set the standard for future players and Scottie soccer going forward," said head coach Jordan Maska.



## O'FARRELL PLACES 8TH AT NJCAA NATIONAL MEET

Alexis O'Farrell (Appleton City, Missouri) placed eighth at the NJCAA Division I national meet in javelin in May, earning the title of All-American.

"I want to thank my teammates for being so supportive during the season and my coaches for being there for the hard times throughout the years. I can't wait to see what God has planned for me in the next few years," said O'Farrell.

Leading up to the national meet in Monroe, Louisiana, O'Farrell's best throw was 38.12 meters. She surpassed her previous personal best by throwing 42 meters making her the eighth best javelin thrower in the NJCAA in 2024.

"Alexis is an extremely hard worker who is willing to put the time in to improve. I am so proud of her," said Matt Ludwick, HCC assistant track coach.

Next year, O'Farrell will join the track team at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri to continue her college education majoring in graphic design with a minor in computer science.

*SCOTTIE FLASHBACK: Before we were the Scotties, we were called the "Orange Warriors" or the "Purple Warriors" depending on the color of uniforms worn. After 1925, we were called the wildcats. In 1937, our athletic teams were first called the "Scotties" as we're known today.*



# FOUNDATION NEWS



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alumni and Friends,

As we look forward to the new school year, we are also moving into a new presidential era of Dr. Vincent Bowhay. President Bowhay has family living throughout the Highland service area and actually started his college education with Highland in 2002. We welcome Vince back to Scottie Nation!

Thank you for your support of Highland Community College as we bring the Vision for Our Future Campaign to a close raising nearly \$9 million. We have accomplished so much with your help, support and advocacy. We have built new academic facilities, new athletic facilities, grown scholarships, increased alumni participation and enhanced programming to improve our student experience.

For the next three years your gifts to Highland will garner you a 60% Kansas Tax Credit Certificate on your gift amount. Instead of sending your state income tax, corporate tax or other state taxes to Topeka, make a gift to the HCC Foundation and you will be directing your Kansas tax dollars where you know it is making a positive impact in our community.

Highland Community College has much work to do. We want to live up to the legacy of dedicated alumni, faculty, coaches, friends and partners. Many have given years of their lives and careers to Highland, imparted knowledge and skills to one another and students and given financially to support Scottie Nation.

Your gifts made using the tax credits can be used by the College to fund much-needed maintenance projects, renovations and technology. You will also be keeping your HCC legacy alive and enabling future students to follow in your footsteps.

*Your gift makes an impact. Together with Highland Community College, you can design the gift that best defines your Vision for the Future. If you are interested in making an impact or for more information, please visit [highlandcc.edu/giving](http://highlandcc.edu/giving).*

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Jaloma".

**KEITH JALOMA**  
Executive Director  
Highland Community College Foundation





## NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

The Antes Family Endowed Scholarship is truly a family affair. **Bob Antes '63** led the way for his siblings from Effingham to attend Highland Community Junior College...and did they ever! **Carl '66, Margaret Ann '68, Teresa '71, Bernie '73, Ray '74, Leroy '75 and Leo '78** all graduated from Highland. They appreciate the Technical Programs and have established an endowed scholarship for students in Diesel Technology, Industrial Welding or Construction Technology.



**John '61 and Ruth Atwater** continue to grow their business of cattle and farming. For more than 50-years they have worked in agricultural production and the legal profession. Their work ethic leads to late dinners at Boomers, many missed lunches and quick trips to cattle feed lots. Because of their love of Highland, John and Ruth have established a scholarship program for students from Jackson County who are attending Highland Community College.

**Dr. Dennis "Doc" Arnold '96 and Dr. Mary Ann Bowman** have dedicated their lives in the service of educating students. They have a passion and skill set for assisting Tribal Nations to comply with the complexity of regulations. This passion and Doc's interest in cars led them to establish their first of three endowed scholarships at Highland. Doc graduated from the Automotive Technology Program and now has a scholarship to help students in that program. They both exercise at the Walters Wellness Center and have established a scholarship to support a personal training student. Their work with the Kickapoo Tribe inspired them to establish a scholarship to help a tribal member attend Highland.

## HERITAGE SOCIETY INDUCTEES

**Dr. Robert Corder Jr.** grew up in Highland. He is the son of Dr. Robert Corder Sr. who had a family practice in Highland for 32-years before his retirement in 1982. Bob Corder Jr. graduated from University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1996 and was a practicing OB/GYN physician in St. Joseph, for over four decades.

**Cindy Tilson Rogers '66** earned her A.A. from Highland Junior College in 1966 followed by a B.A. in Home Economics Education from Washburn in 1969. She later obtained a special certification in Vocational Home Economics Education in 1982. Cindy started an endowed scholarship at Highland in 2019 that has helped students planning to continue their education at Washburn University.

**Kathi (Robertson) Vandel '85** is owner and president of Lightworks, Inc., a design and engineering consulting firm specializing in lighting and electrical systems for all sizes of commercial and residential construction in Weston, Missouri. Kathi received her Associate of Arts degree from HCC in 1985 where she also participated in track and cheer. Kathi's recent project was the new Kansas City International Airport.

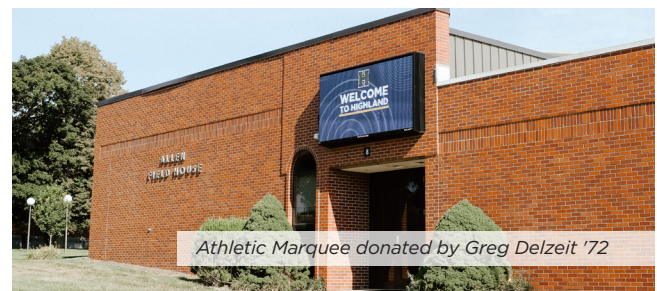
**Laura (Corder) Bond** is the daughter of Dr. Robert Corder Sr., a prominent physician in Highland for 32-years. Laura graduated from Highland High School in 1970 and attended Highland Junior College for one-year. She transferred to Washburn University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1976. She had a long and very successful career in banking investment.

**Stanley Lewis** graduated from the University of Missouri in 1955 then entered the U.S. Army as Second Lieutenant. After the service, he taught math in high school then joined RCA as a computer programmer before joining the faculty of Highland Community College in 1965. He retired from the College in 1997. He was awarded Faculty Emeritus after he retired. Stanley passed away on April 3, 2024.

## ATHLETIC FACILITY DONATIONS

For years, **Mike Parker** had a vision to honor Tom Bond, one of the best track and field coaches of all time at Highland Community College. Tom coached at Highland for 23-years, 11-years as head track and field coach. The perfect way to honor Tom was with a Track and Field Record Board which was made possible by a generous gift from Mike Parker. Mr. Parker is a former instructor and administrator at Highland Community College.

After attending **Paul Batchelder's '70** Golden Grads Alumni Weekend festivities, he and his wife **Trish** made a commitment to help make improvements in Ben Allen Field House. The result is a complete renovation of the men's basketball locker room. New lockers, flooring, furniture, technology, paint and graphics have turned the space from a "no show" to part of the tour for a recruit. While Paul did not play sports, his father and brothers were tremendous athletes at Highland, and he wanted to honor them in this way.



The marquee at the Ben Allen Field House has been on the HCC wish list for a long time. This year, the dream became a reality because of the generosity of **Greg Delzeit '72**. Greg was inducted into the HCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2021. His service to Highland includes coach, intramural director, instructor, advisor and athletic director over his 34-years working at HCC.



# VISION OF THE FUTURE

## ABOUT THE VISION OF THE FUTURE

The Vision for The Future Campaign began in 2016, and with the help of these donors has raised over \$9 million in cash, pledges, estate gifts and gifts-in-kind. These donors have created an immediate impact on student lives, increased community development, improved educational facilities at regional sites and provided additional scholarships for students in need.

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*SCOTTIE FLASHBACK: The Highland Community Junior College Endowment Foundation (now the HCC Foundation) was reorganized in November 1972. Its purpose has been to collect donations for the College to be used for scholarships of our students. Historically and today, endowment funds are invested and the interest and dividends from these investments are used by the College in various educational undertakings.*





2024 Marty Allen Golf Classic Alumni Participants

## ALUMNI NEWS

### HCC ALUMNI CONTINUE MARTY ALLEN GOLF CLASSIC TRADITION

Over 100 alumni and friends of the College traveled to Bellevue Golf Course for the Marty Allen Golf Classic Friday, July 19.

Kelly Twombly, Director of Alumni Relations, warmly welcomed the players and thanked them for participating. Dr. Vincent Bowhay, HCC president, addressed the crowd expressing his gratitude for their support of the College and its students.

Following President Bowhay's remarks, former head football coach, Marty Allen '66, outlined the rules for the day, wished everyone luck and officially started the tournament. Alums enjoyed visiting with one another and the guest of honor, Coach Allen, throughout the day. The winning team was Travis George '00, Steve Studer '00, Toby Stevens and John Crider.

Proceeds from the tournament totaled over \$11,600 from sponsorships and raffle tickets purchased for donated merchandise. These funds will be used for future alumni events and HCC student scholarships.

Great Western Dining provided delicious hotdogs for golfers on the course and pulled pork sandwiches and nachos for lunch when they returned to the clubhouse. The HCC Alumni Association is grateful for their participation and their generous donation of the meal at the event.

A special thank you goes to former athletic director Greg Delzeit '72, who sponsored the "Hole-in-One" opportunities. The Alumni Association would also like to

extend their gratitude to all sponsors of the event (see Page 23). Additionally, a heartfelt thank you is offered to Amy DuLac, HCCTC Director, for her invaluable advice and guidance throughout the planning and execution of the tournament.

Mark your calendars for next year's tournament Friday, July 18, 2025. We'll be back at Bellevue Golf Course in Atchison. You won't want to miss it!

### ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CONTRIBUTE TO SSS

HCC's Student Support Services (SSS) program offered a variety of opportunities and services in the 2023-2024 academic year drawing immense support from HCC alumni and friends of the College.

Annually, SSS holds an Etiquette and Networking Dinner, where students learn the basics of dining etiquette and network with business professionals in the region. Vanetta (Blevins) Geiger '78, former HCC Director of Admissions and HCC Spirit Squad coach, presented proper etiquette advice and techniques to attendees. The Country Cabin in Hiawatha, a fine dining establishment in Northeast Kansas owned by Phillip '98 and Sara (Steward) '12 Roberts, hosted the event. Professionals in attendance were Randy Willy, former HCC Vice President for Finance and Operations; Blair Geiger, social worker and Homegrown & Co. owner; Brandon Geiger '05, Geiger Ag; Justin Fluke, KNZA Radio Group owner/operator; Cheryl Rasmussen, former HCC vice president for student services and current HCC volleyball assistant coach; Kyle Olson '04, Thrivent Financial Advisor; Corey Kostman, Grain Belt Insurance owner; and Deborah Fox, former HCC president.



Other speakers and program contributors throughout the year were Ben Gilmore, Caudle Financial; Blaire Eeds, HCC Counselor; Sarah Olson, Horizon Therapy Associates; Sarah (Gilfillan) Windmeyer '04, HCC Financial Aid director; Kristi (Kelley) Blevins '04, HCC Financial Aid Assistant; Lindsey Koch '12, Klinefelter Farm Projects Manager; and Stephen Barbee '85.

Local churches and individuals also support SSS students and staff throughout the year. Contributors for the 2023-2024 year were Bellevue Methodist Church-UMW, Rosemary Schooler, Cheryl Riley, Cleta Schwalm, Nestle Purina, Frito Lay, Kathy Howard, Elizabeth Koranda, Highland United Methodist Presbyterian Church and Highland Christian Church.

Amber (Wilhelm) Hutfles '15, HCC SSS Director, stated, "What a joy it is to positively impact the lives of students at Highland Community College. We recognize that this wouldn't be possible without the tremendous and unwavering support of alumni and friends of the College. Whether it be donations, alumni giving their time, providing industry knowledge or building relationships with our students, this community has always been quick to collaborate and support our program to help us meet students' needs. Student Support Services sincerely appreciates the generosity of alumni and friends who have helped us abundantly serve our students. We believe this impact will be seen long after students graduate from Highland Community College."

*To learn more about HCC's Student Support Services program visit [highlandcc.edu/ss](http://highlandcc.edu/ss).*



*Robert Brainerd, Sharon (Seever) Buford, Glendon Hartmen, Carolyn (Loyd) Andres, Tom Simpson, Phyllis (Potter) Adcock, Ellen (Bauer) Simpson, Steve Simpson, Cindy (Jones) Hoverson*

### **HCC CLASS OF 1973 RETURNS TO CAMPUS**

Members of the HCC class of 1973 gathered in the Library Saturday, Oct. 14, to reminisce and reconnect with one another. Classmates provided bios for a short memory book with an update of their life after Highland. Many members of the class of '73 mentioned fond memories and a time of personal growth while here.

When reflecting about attending Highland Community Junior College (HCJC), Robert (Bob) Brainerd said, "It was a magical place for me." He said he moved about eight times during his high school years and didn't have the time to get to know anyone really. "High school was kind of lonely for me," shared Bob. "After surviving all that, HCC was heaven sent." He said getting to know his classmates, learning who he was and what he liked, was simply a blessed experience. Bob said this small college and provincial little town shaped him in a way that he needed to grow. "It was just what the doctor ordered."

After the class gathered at the HCC Library, they toured campus remembering their days as a student, instructors who taught them, friendships they made, new additions to campus and were surprised by how much it's changed. The Alumni Association hosted the group to lunch at Kirkwood and Co. Table & Tap where they were welcomed by HCC President Deborah Fox and enjoyed a performance by the HCC Lads & Lassies under the direction of Shayna Leahy.

Alums were also able to visit with Scottie football alumni and friends at Kirkwood who were hosted by HCC Alumni Association Board members, Coach Marty Allen '66 and Barb (Tuggle) Morrow '84. After lunch, classmates gathered at Porter Family Stadium for a reception during the HCC Homecoming football game verses Independence Community College in which the Scotties got the win.

"This class was a joy to host on campus. They had such love for HCC, their instructors and classmates. They were so grateful to be back on campus and had the best stories about their time here," said Kelly (Blevins) Twombly '83, Director of Alumni Relations.

### **DONIPHAN DARLINGS DIRECTOR REFLECTS ON HCC'S IMPACT**

In the spring of 2024, Mackenzie Cunningham '13, a native of Highland, was appointed as the Director of Doniphan Darlings, a daycare situated in the old Highland Elementary School building. Cunningham, who has deep roots in HCC, highlighted the close connection between the daycare and the College.

Cunningham shared, "When you grow up in Highland like I did, you're not a stranger to the College. Now in my professional life, I work with daycare parents who are HCC alumni or current employees. Many of the Doniphan Darlings board members attended or work at HCC. I also have the blessing of being friends with HCC instructors, coaches and administration. I mention all of these things because Scottie Nation runs deep! Coming back home, I have learned to truly appreciate the College for more than just a learning institution. It's become so much more than that for me."

Regarding the influence of HCC on Doniphan Darlings, Cunningham noted, "A large number of our employees are either current HCC students or alumni. Doniphan Darlings serves as a placement opportunity for HCC's Early Childhood Education students. As a result, we are able to employ quality people who benefit from real-life experiences under the guidance of experienced instructors."

*To learn more about HCC's Early Childhood Program, visit [highlandcc.edu/earlychildhood](http://highlandcc.edu/earlychildhood).*

*SCOTTIE FLASHBACK: The Highland Alumni Association was reorganized in 1969. The group had been serving the college from the opening of its doors. The Alumni Association continues to maintain a connection between former students and our Alma Mater.*



# ALUMNI NOTES

## 1960s

**William N. "Bill" Noll '67** joined the HCC Board of Trustees in January 2024. Bill is a retired HCC history instructor and a Faculty Emeritus. Bill and his wife, **Marion (Sadowski) '04**, reside in Highland.

**Joe Laukemper '68** retired from his Laukemper Motors business in 2016. Joe still looks after a couple of duck hunting spots and is the president of the Waterfowlers Hall of Fame. Joe also served as mayor and is a Kiwanis member. He has three grown children and six grandchildren. He resides in Mound City, MO.

## 1970s

**Paul '70 and Linda Crawford** attended the 2023 Homecoming festivities bringing their family including **Jacque (Stewart) '97** and **Thomas Crawford '00**, Abe Crawford, Tammy Gabriel and Phillip Gabriel.



**William "Frank" Tilton '72** visited Highland for his 50th high school class reunion. While back, he stopped by HCC. He shared that after high school he went into the military and then came back to attend HCC. He remembered Bill Batchelder, Elizabeth Smith, Kathleen A. Twombly, Sheri Miller Woldt and Jerry Blevins. Frank attended Missouri Western and then went over the road trucking from which he retired. He met his late wife, Aida, in Minnesota they have a daughter who is an RN. Frank loved his teachers and had stories about Brenda Hines, Stan Lewis, John Marxen and John McPheeters. He said, "We were so lucky with the instructors we had at HCC." He noted that he and two other veterans started a Veterans

Club while at HCC. He now resides in Florida.

**Mark Rounds '78** joined the HCC Board of Trustees in January 2024. Mark is the President and CEO at Rounds Resources, LLC. He and his wife, **Anita (Collins) '79** reside in Highland.

**W. Kent Eveleth '79** is the lead custodian at USD 435. Kent lives in Abilene, KS.

## 1980s

**Craig Burnes '83** HCC alumnus, spoke at HCC's Black History Month program.



Two HCC basketball alums faced off at the Kansas High School 2A girls basketball semifinals in Dodge City. **Craig Burnes '83** is the head coach for Riverside and **Jordan Broxterman '10** is the head coach for Valley Heights.



**Wayne Deters '84** works at McLane Ozark in Republic, MO and attended the football reunion in fall of 2023.

**Paul Greer '89**, of Tonganoxie, KS, started a new business in life, health, investing and retirement. He is IT and an insurance agent for Exporier Financial Group. Paul played football when attending HCC. He returns most years for homecoming and reconnecting with his fellow HCC athletes.

## 1990s

The Kansas School Superintendents' Association recently named USD 409 Superintendent **Dr. Renee (Flax) Nugent '90** as the 2024-25 KSSA President-Elect.



The Alumni Association welcomed three HCC Athletic Directors at the Basketball Reunion in February: **Tom Smith '64**, **Francis Flax** and current AD, **Jerre Cole '91**.



**William Hefner '90** is the Associate Dean of Clinical Programs at Pacific University College of Optometry. William was part of the cross country and track teams when at HCC. He was a multiple NJCAA Academic All-American and an All-American in the marathon in 1990, finishing sixth at the NJCAA National Marathon Championships in Chicago. William spent 20 years in a successful private group optometry practice in Topeka, KS and concurrently served 24-years in the United States Air Force/Kansas Air National Guard, retiring June 6, 2021, as the longest serving Medical Group Commander in the 190th Air Refueling Wing's history. In 2017, William relocated to Forest Grove, OR, where he joined the faculty at Pacific University College of Optometry, teaching multiple courses over a four-year period. His wife, Dawn, of 20-years, is a social worker serving our nation's veterans in the caregiver support section. They have three children:



Justin Locke (28) who works for a subcontractor at Intel, Chloe (19) who is a collegiate volleyball player at Pacific, and Luke (12).

**Betty (Schmelzle) Peterson '92** and **Michelle (Nordhus) Schmelzle '94** opened Freddy's Pizza together in Seneca, KS. They played volleyball under HCC Coach Glen-na Batchelder.

**Aurelia Trywianska-Kollasch '98** lives in Forest, VA. She is the Associate Director for Reporting and Analytics for the University of Virginia. Aurelia was a successful track & field athlete at HCC as a Junior College All-American, placing third in the 60-meter indoor hurdles and the 100-meter outdoor hurdles. She then attended Iowa State University as a seven-time Polish junior hurdle champion also finishing second in the 100-meter hurdle finals at the Big 12 Championship. She went on to compete nationally, both for the U.S. and Poland, placing fifth in 2003 at the World Championships in the 100-meter hurdles, and was an Olympic quarterfinalist and a three-time Polish National Champion. "I remain thankful and grateful for the educational and athletic opportunities HCC provided when I first arrived. I always fondly reminisce of my time on the HCC campus."



## 2000s

**Steven Anderson '01** is a Maintenance Technician and resides in Houston, TX.

**Adam Bruna '02** is a Financial Advisor for the Knights of Columbus and was named the 2023 Agent of the Year for his company. He and his wife, Cyrie, have a son, Arlo.

**Kory Browning '06** is a driller with Eyncon Engineering. He is married to Dana who is a Senior Hospitality Account Specialist for Spot On. Kory played men's basketball while at HCC and then played semi-pro basketball from 2018-2019.

**Chase '08 and Alison Smith** welcomed their son, Walker Warren, May 8, 2024.

**Kaycee (Wyatt) '09 and Jacob Davis** welcomed Lydia Sue in March 2024.

**Connor Hampton '08** was 1 of 24 people who are honored to be accepted and to participate in the Association of Fundraising Professionals Leadership Institute in California by LinkedIn. Connor is the Executive Director of Flagshipkan.



## 2010s

**Jesse '10 and Taylor '10 (Twombly) Marriott** welcomed daughter, Sunday James, Oct. 30, 2023.

**Todd '11 and Adrienne Neibling** welcomed son, Johnny Raymond, Nov. 15, 2023.

**Colin '11 and Lori Greaser** welcomed Everett John, Jan. 4, 2024.

**Miranda (Wilgers) '11 and Nick Jones** welcomed Bennett, Jan. 2024.

**Kayla (Dishon) '11 and Preston '15 Foley** welcomed Henry Chapple, March 12, 2024.

**Morgan (Rush) Boydston '11 and Luke Boydston** welcomed son, Beau Marshall, April 1, 2024.

**Keante Green '11** lives in St. Joseph, MO, and works for Choices as a DSP worker. Keante played football while at HCC.

**Morgan (Helmstetter) '12** married Brett Dunlap on Nov. 4, 2023. The couple resides in Denton, KS and have two boys, Benson and Barrett.

**Jared '12** and Katie Meng welcomed Clayton Dean, Dec. 22, 2023.

**Jaaron (Kassanavoid) '13** and Bryce Foster welcomed Braeley Marelle, Dec. 8, 2023.

**Becca (Hasenkamp) '13 and Cody '08 Miller** welcomed Dottie Marceil, April 15, 2024.

**Jill (Sarver) Morrison '13** is working as the Highland Community College Director of Admissions.

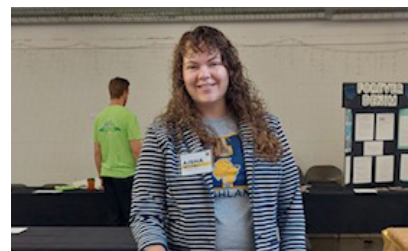
**Derek '15** and Holley Gibson welcomed Walker Martin, Oct. 17, 2023.

**Jasmyn (Geiger) '15** and Solomon Isreal welcomed Alora Brielle Feb. 25, 2024.

**Jordann (Smith) '15** married Jason Haffner June 1, 2024. They reside in Wichita, KS.

**Amber (Wilhelm) Hutfles '15** is working as the Student Support Services Director at Highland Community College.

**Aisha (Diveley) Mitchell '15** hosted an HCC information table at the Valley Falls Match Day for the HCC Foundation.



**Baileigh (Jenkins) '16** married Colin Staples June 17, 2023. They reside in Mound City, MO.

**Megan (Mueller) '16** and Matt Sommers welcomed son, Grant Matthew, Sept. 1, 2023.

**Adam Wilmes '16** married Stephanie McCabe Oct. 21, 2023. They reside in Leawood, KS.

**Gabby (Speer) '16** and Kyle Studer welcomed their son, Wheeler, May 6, 2024.

**Andrew and Jessica (Neibling) '16 Gilmore** welcomed their son, Ty Jameson, June 10, 2024.

**Holly (Whetstine) '17 and Kohlby King '18** were married Sept. 29, 2023.

**Makayla (Ross) '17** and Clayton Vaught were married Oct. 21, 2023.

**Stephanie (Summerville) Foster '17** and Tyler Loecker welcomed



Owen Francis April 17, 2024.

**Matthew Hefner '18 and Jenna (Clarkson) '19** were married July 1, 2023.

**Sydney (Brinlee) '18** and Diontre Cutliff were married Oct. 14, 2023.

**Savannah Claire (Morgan) '18** married Richard Ballard in Dec. 2023. The couple resides in Alabama.

**Cory Beth (Smith) '18 and Kins-tin '20 Juhl** welcomed daughter, ScottiAnn Nicole, May 5, 2024.

**Bailee (Lackey) '19** and Drew Sa-chen were married May 25, 2024.

## 2020s

**Remington Powell '20** is working at Doniphan West High School in Highland as a high school history teacher and assistant football coach.

**Ashton Veach '20** graduated from Peru State College with a Bachelor of Science and a Major in Business Administration-Accounting/CPA. Ashton works for HCC as the Student Services Office Assistant.

Scottie baseball alums **Joan Gon-zalez '21** and **Gustavo Nava '21** participated in the HBCU Swingman Classic at T-Mobile and were selected to play in the MBP Take-over All-Star Game.



**Bereanna (Weiland) '21 and Hous-ton Cluck '17** were married March 9, 2024. Bereanna and Houston have two children, Bobbie Jean and Kase.

**Lena Visarius '23** visited campus and shared that she is playing soccer in Kentucky. Lena was a tutor, played soccer and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

**Jordan (Veach) '23** and Jaylen Crossen welcomed Journie Lynn April 23, 2024.

# IN MEMORY

## FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

**Arthur "Marvin" Gaither**, former Diesel Technology instructor at the HCC Tech Center in Atchison, KS, passed away Sept. 9, 2023, at the age of 71.

**Michiel "Mike" Ford**, of Holton, KS, passed away Sept. 18, 2023, at the age of 69. Mike was a former astronomy instructor for HCC.

**Gerald "Jerry" Joyce** of Denton, KS, passed away Nov. 9, 2023, at the age of 77.

**Stanley Lewis**, Hiawatha, KS, passed away April 3, 2024, at the age of 92. Mr. Lewis taught math at HCC for 32-years and was awarded Faculty Emeritus after his retirement in 1997.



**James Clulo**, retired HCC adjunct History and Spanish teacher in Horton, passed away April 27, 2024, in Valley Falls, KS at the age of 90. Mr. Clulo was a member of the HCC Foundation Heritage Society.

**Melvin "Sonny" Bourne, Jr.**, Centralia, KS, passed away June 7, 2024, at the age of 85. Melvin was a former College Biology instructor for HCC.

**Mack Porter** of Kearney, MO, passed away Jan. 27, 2024, at the age of 96. Mack was a graduate of Smithville High School and attended Missouri Valley College graduating in 1949. Mack was hired at Highland High School to teach physics, biology, science and general math. Mack was also the head football coach for his three-year tenure at the high school. It was in Highland where he met his wife

**Mary Helen Gilmore '45** who was a Highland Junior College alumnus of 1945 and worked at the local lumber yard at the time. Mack made a career change from education to the lumber business which he grew from his first store in Kearney, MO to a chain of Porter Building Center stores. Mack and Mary Helen served on the HCC Foundation Board and established the Mary Helen Porter Scholarship for area students in music and theatre. Through the generosity of Mack's lead gift, the Porter Family Stadium, honoring Mack & Mary Helen Gilmore Porter, was born.



## 1940s

**Mary "Joann" (Acker) Hefty '49** of Valley Falls, KS, passed away June 24, 2024, at the age of 94.

## 1950s

**Marilyn (Bingham) Ehram '52** of Bern, KS, passed away Dec. 25, 2023, at the age of 91.

**Reverend William "Joe" Bullock '55** of Atchison, KS passed away June 22, 2024, at the age of 88.

## 1960s

**Ralph "Doug" Taylor '61** of Winchester, KS, passed away Nov. 22, 2023, at the age of 82.

**Mike Boos '60** of Wathena, KS, passed away Dec. 2, 2023, at the age of 83.

**Karla (Strube) Williams '65** of Powhattan, KS, passed away Feb. 13, 2024, at the age of 77.

**James "Jim" Banaka '64** of Netawaka, KS passed away March 10, 2024, at the age of 78.

**Janet (Lehman) Schesser '69**, of Horton, KS, passed away March 18, 2024.

**Dennis Liggatt '67** of Horton, KS, passed away April 15, 2024, at the age of 77.



**Joseph “Ronnie” Smith ’63** of Horton, KS, passed away April 29, 2024, at the age of 81.

**Jerry Stahl ’61** of Wathena, KS, passed away May 8, 2024, at the age of 82.

**Patricia (Kelley) Blocker ’66** of Wathena, KS, passed away June 29, 2024, at the age of 78.

### 1970s

**Paula Amrein ’71** of Atchison, KS, passed away Aug. 27, 2023, at the age of 72.

**Steven “Smitty” Smith ’72** of Mayetta, KS, passed away Oct. 1, 2023, at the age of 70.

**Tim White ’76** of Elwood, KS, passed away April 19, 2024, at the age of 67.

**Ronald Masters ’71** of Union Star, MO, passed away April 29, 2024, at the age of 72.

**Patricia (Dutton) Triplett ’75** of Troy, KS, passed away June 5, 2024, at the age of 92.

### 1980s

**Brenda Van Peyma ’81** of Sabetha, KS, passed away Oct. 10, 2023, at the age of 62.

**Kimberly Clem ’87** of Huron, KS, passed away Nov. 16, 2023, at the age of 55.

**Steven “Shippy” Shipman ’86** of Atchison, KS, passed away Dec. 23, 2023, at the age of 58.

**Jack Bryan Denton ’81** of Denton, KS, passed away March 10, 2024, at the age of 62.

**Bill Jenson ’83** of Hiawatha, KS, passed away May 8, 2024, at the age of 59.

### 1990s

**Sonja (Soyland) Tollefson ’92** of Hiawatha, KS, passed away Aug. 19, 2023, at the age of 83.

### 2000s

**Jaynell (Franklin) Robidoux ’03** of Hiawatha, KS, passed away May 8, 2024, at the age of 84.

**Alex Moore ’04** of Sabetha, KS, passed away April 11, 2024, at the age of 40. Alex was well-known across the HCC campus, as both a student and later, an employee. During his student years, he could be found assisting the Student Life department, singing with Lads & Lassies and playing drumset for the Scottie Pep Band. He returned to the HCC Vocal Department as a guest musician many times over the years and eventually became a full-time Student Services employee. As an academic advisor, Alex was a passionate advocate for education and engagement in the HCC community. He is fondly remembered for his gregarious personality and animated conversations with everyone who crossed his path. His light is carried forward by his partner, Paige Brennehan, and son, Julian.



## STAY CONNECTED

### WHERE HAS HCC TAKEN YOU?

Share your updates, news, accomplishments and celebrations for inclusion in the next issue of “The Connection” Alumni Magazine. Submit your notes to: [highlandcc.edu/alumni-update-form](https://highlandcc.edu/alumni-update-form). We look forward to hearing from you!

### ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Whether you’re joining the HCC Alumni Association for the first time, simply renewing your membership or gifting a membership to a loved one, staying connected to HCC is quick and easy!

*Lifetime Membership is \$150 or Joint Membership is \$275. To become a member, visit [highlandcc.edu/alumni-membership](https://highlandcc.edu/alumni-membership).*

### GET YOUR LEGACY IN THE COURTYARD

A brick courtyard was placed at the main entrance of the Porter Family Stadium as a celebration honoring alumni and friends of the College. Purchase a brick to personalize with your name, sport, activity, year, or as a memorial or gift. Proceeds support HCC Alumni Association Scholarships.

A 4x8” brick is \$75 with up to three lines of 14 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation. An 8x8” brick is \$125 with up to six lines of 14 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation.

*To purchase your brick, visit [highlandcc.edu/courtyard-bricks](https://highlandcc.edu/courtyard-bricks).*

### BECOME A SCOTTIE

Do you know someone who would make a great Scottie?

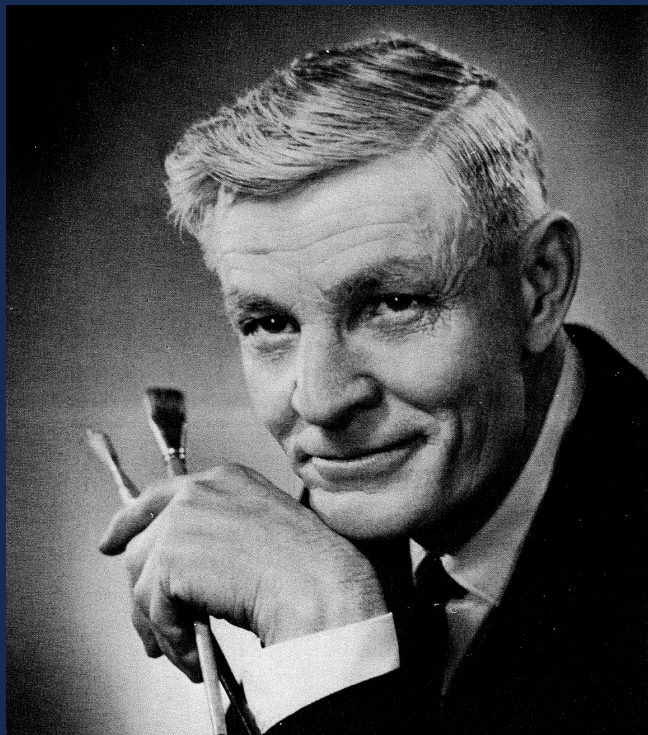
Our multiple locations allow your loved one to stay close to home and far from debt. At Highland Community College, you’re an integral part of an ever-expanding group who believes anything is possible. It’s our goal to help get you there, and it’s up to you to begin the journey.

*Join the almost 19,000 alumni and friends of the college. For more information contact admissions: email [admissions@highlandcc.edu](mailto:admissions@highlandcc.edu) or call 785-442-6020. To apply visit [highlandcc.edu/apply](https://highlandcc.edu/apply).*

We are Scottie Nation!



# 1974 SCOTTIE FLASHBACKS



*WALTER YOST: Walter Yost was named "Teacher of the Year" in the 1974 yearbook. Mr. Yost grew up southwest of Atchison. He taught at Atchison High School for 21-years before coming to HCJC in 1964. He also taught at KU, Benedictine, the Federal Penitentiary and Peru State. He illustrated 50 science books and painted 28, 8 by 12 foot murals at KU. While there has never been a question of his talent, it was said that people admired him most because of the respect he gave his students and pushed them to give their best.*

*NEW DORM: Ellis Hall was dedicated August 18, 1974. After its dedication and ribbon cutting, visitors toured the new dorm before heading to Scottie's Pause for refreshments. No county tax money was used to pay for the building of Ellis Hall. The residence hall was named in honor of J. Harley and Grace Ellis, former residents of Highland who had willed the college 16- acres of land in western Kansas. This land was sold and the money was used to pay part of the costs of the new dormitory.*

*Ellis Hall still stands today and houses students. Many parents have encouraged students to choose Ellis because of its proximity to the Library, Cafeteria and classrooms.*



*MOM JOHNSON: Mrs. Laura Johnson was known to most students attending Highland Community Junior College in 1974 as Mom Johnson. Mom came to HCJC in 1954 and started the Student Union in Irvin Hall. One room in the Union was called the "Rainbow Room" because five different colors of paint were donated so each wall and the ceiling had a color all its own. Mom showed much patience and love and always seemed to have time to listen and talk to the students. She never refused her friendship to anyone. Those who knew her called her a stone foundation of the school.*

*50-YEARS OF VOLLEYBALL: This year, we're celebrating 50-years of volleyball at HCC. HCJC competed in volleyball for the first time the fall of 1974 under the leadership of Coach Glenna Batchelder. The team went 5-3 in their first season in the Greater Kansas City Community College Conference.*



*GOLDEN GRADS: The HCJC class of 1974 has marked 50-years since their graduation in Highland. This year, they will be celebrated as our Golden Grads at Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 12. We invite the class of 1974 back for a reunion, lunch and the football game.*

*Tony Woodrum was the president of HCJC in 1974. That year, HCJC employed 23 full-time faculty and administration. The enrollment that fall was 291 students.*



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 SOCCER GAME  
 @ 4PM

**AUG**  
**31**  
 HOME OPENER  
 FOOTBALL  
 GAME @ 4PM

**SEPT**  
**4**  
 HOME OPENER  
 VOLLEYBALL  
 GAME @ 5:30PM

**SEPT**  
**27**  
 45TH  
 PRESIDENTIAL  
 INAUGURATION  
 @ 2PM

**NOV**  
**15**  
 ATHLETIC  
 HALL OF  
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