FM celebrates 50 years!
I am so proud to present the Fulton-Montgomery Community College Annual Report for 2013-2014. While every year at FM gives each of us a sense of pride, this year was particularly special as we celebrated our 50th year as an institution of higher education.

From the time that we launched our opening presentations about the beginnings of FM, to the time that we danced the night away at our Gala, the entire community recalled memories and toasted accomplishments of FM. More important than the speeches, the music, or the proclamations, is the impact that FM has had on the lives of tens of thousands of individuals and on our community as a whole. FM is truly a shining light for the future of our region.

It seems as though every day on the FM campus provides something to cherish. I would like to note some special moments that occurred on our campus this year.

Civility is a topic on campus that is discussed and demonstrated in many settings. This year, students, faculty and staff created a Civility Quilt. It includes squares that have messages about civility that were weaved together into a lovely quilt. It now hangs in our classroom building as a reminder of how important civility is.

One of our students, Grace Rutagengwa, addressed the United Nations about survival in Rwanda. Both Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand visited our campus to discuss the importance of understanding technology and the revival of high tech manufacturing in Upstate New York to create jobs. Congressman Chris Gibson spoke at our Commencement Ceremony.

Renowned author Richard Russo came to our campus and spoke to hundreds of people from our local area; many who traveled hundreds of miles to see him. We launched the concept of creating a College Town near the campus on property purchased by the Foundation of FM.

From our humble beginnings in Johnstown 50 years ago with 300 students, to our beautiful campus and 2,800 students today, FM continues to be on the move. I hope that you enjoy reading about our accomplishments this year. Stop in to visit our campus anytime. If you haven’t seen it in a few years, you haven’t seen it! We are truly a place where we can say - Futures Made. Here.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dustin Swanger
President
Vision
Fulton-Montgomery Community College strives to be recognized as a model community college that offers quality education, excellence in student support, innovative approaches, and programs that reflect our values.

Mission
Fulton-Montgomery Community College is the region’s partner for quality, accessible higher education; responsive programs; economic development; and cultural and intellectual enrichment.

Core Values
Fulton-Montgomery Community College has identified the following as core values in its approach to serving students and the community:

• Excellence in education and teaching
• Student learning and scholarship
• Innovation
• Civility and integrity
• Caring personalized service
• Diversity
• Accessibility
• Quality environment
• Community engagement

Civility Statement
FM is committed to fostering an environment of civility. All members of the FM community and visitors have the right to experience and the responsibility to create and maintain an environment of mutual respect and support that is civil in all aspects of human relations. Civility facilitates professional growth and achievement and promotes an environment where each person can reach his or her full potential.
Recognizing Civility

Students and staff came together to celebrate civility with an afternoon of activities including the unveiling of “The Civility Quilt” where members of the campus community created civility squares to be pieced together. A “One Day Without Shoes” bake sale was held to raise awareness of children’s healthcare issues across the world and a “Bringing Out the Best in Each Other” workshop focused on supporting others in reaching one’s full potential.

Sharing of Civility

The Civility Committee and Think Peace Club sponsored a Civility Showcase where students were encouraged to participate in any form they wished to show what civility means to them. Individuals and groups took the stage to act, read a poem, sing a song, or simply state their ideas.
Student Speaks at the U.N. about Survival

Student Grace Rutagengwa was an invited guest at the United Nations in New York City to speak about the Rwanda Genocide, which took the lives of her loved ones, and tell how participation in intercollegiate athletics helped her cope with this tragedy. The event drew more visitors than could be accommodated by the 550 seat U.N. Conference Room.

Featured Artist

One of the Perrella Gallery’s featured artists was artist and activist Linda Stein. Her exhibition/performance/lecture, The Fluidity of Gender, was part of Stein’s five year national traveling exhibition of her work. Her wearable sculpture breaks down boundaries between female, male, feminine and masculine and in doing so, seeks to dismantle concepts that limit individuals and values one gender over another.

Founders Day

The annual Founders Day celebration recognized employees reaching milestones in their career and named the recipients of the Futures Matter Award (recognizing extraordinary effort, performance, and dedication), the Spirit of Innovation Award (recognizing superior creativity and innovation), the FCA Award (recognizing an FCA employee for extraordinary effort, performance, dedication and/or superior creativity and innovation), and the President’s Award (recognizing an employee who shows commitment to community, who goes above and beyond their job duties, and portrays qualities of a leader). Following the recognition, employees volunteered in the community, providing service to several local organizations.
Recognizing World AIDS Day
President Swanger was the Keynote Speaker at the World AIDS Day Breakfast sponsored by Centro Civico. The theme of the event was “Spotlight on HIV/AIDS – Bringing Awareness.” President Swanger addressed the need for AIDS education and awareness, urging parents to speak with their children about sexual activity, no matter how uncomfortable the conversation.

Buck Moon Arts Festival
FM held the inaugural Buck Moon Arts Festival July 12 and 13 showcasing diverse, family-friendly visual and performance art from across New York State with vendors, workshops, demonstrations, and multi-venue live music and dance performances, along with two juried art shows.

Distinguished Alumni Honored
The Foundation hosted its Seventh Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner honoring graduates Tom DiMezza ’75, Hon. Traci DiMezza ’89, and Trudy J. Venette ’87. Keynote Speaker for the event was Dr. Govind Rao, Pediatrician and Philanthropist.

Alums Return for Research
Electrical Technology program graduates returned to FM’s Cleanroom to prepare for a middle school STEM Day workshop they organized for schools in the Utica area. In preparation for the workshop, the graduates, all now attending SUNY IT, needed to investigate and capture images of structures using the scanning electron microscope (SEM).
Senator Gillibrand Supports Student Veteran Club

The Student Veteran Club held a bake sale fundraiser which had a surprise visit from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. The Senator toured the College’s Cleanroom and spoke to Electrical Technology students. She purchased several baked goods to hand out to student and staff bystanders. The Veterans Club is utilizing the funds to renovate and maintain the campus Vietnam Memorial.

Golf Classic Features a Hole-in-One Winner

FM’s 21st Annual Golf Classic raised over $30,000 to support scholarships and capital projects through the Foundation of FM.

FM Connect

Third graders in Fonda Elementary celebrated The Olympics by participating in FM Connect-sponsored events including “Bobsled Scooters,” the “Long Jump,” “Math Triathlon,” and creating Olympic Torches. FM Connect is a program that ‘connects’ Fonda-Fultonville elementary students to FM. Each month, a different grade was provided with a College-sponsored activity.

Transforming Ideas

President Swanger, alongside other SUNY Presidents, facilitated the panel discussion, “Institutional Knowledge: Colleges as Partners in Community Development” at the Mohawk Valley Regional EDC Summit. The goal of the summit is to assist community leaders to grow business, build workforce, create pathways to innovation, revive infrastructure, and forge partnerships.
On September 1964, Fulton-Montgomery Community College opened its doors to more than 300 students that had registered for programs in liberal arts, engineering, science, electrical technology, accounting, business administration and secretarial science. The first campus for the College was located in the vacated Johnstown High School building. With a staff of 18, the College was successful in organizing a Student Government Association, student clubs, creating a bookstore and College newspaper, and began competition in sports during the first year of operations. The enrollment for the second year nearly doubled and the College needed more space to accommodate the ever-growing population of students.

In 1969, the new campus was built approximately four miles east of Johnstown on Route 67. The campus was designed by Edgar Tafel of New York City and consists of five buildings set on 190 acres and took approximately 1½ years to construct. The focal point of this new campus was a 75-foot bell clock tower that was constructed in the center of the five buildings.


The first President of FM, William L. Gragg, was inaugurated on May 8, 1965. The first commencement ceremony took place on June 14, 1966 at Knox Field in Johnstown. FM graduated 97 members of the original class of 300. There were 58 Associate in Arts degrees conferred and 39 Associates in Applied Science degrees awarded during the ceremony.

Over the past fifty years, a total of eight presidents along with interim presidents have served the College’s student population; a number which has grown to today’s population of 2,850 students including international students from 25 different countries. Students today major in one of 40 academic programs including liberal arts and sciences, business, electrical technology, media communication, nursing, and radiologic technology.

Throughout the decades, the faces of FM have changed, the facilities have been transformed, and even a new College logo and Raider mascot developed; however, the passion for helping students succeed is something that will never change.
Community Celebration
A Community Kick-Off Celebration with local dignitaries and other special guests began the College's academic year. A reception followed along with a special viewing of the 50th Anniversary Art Show in the Perrella Gallery.

Student Celebration
The College kicked off its first two days of classes with a 50th anniversary celebration on the campus quad. Students enjoyed free cake, candy, key chains, “FM-colored” shades, a DJ, and games. All were invited to gather near the Clock Tower to create a “human 5-0.” (See photo on front cover)

Richard Russo
The College welcomed writer Richard Russo whose 2001 novel, Empire Falls, won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Hundreds turned out for this celebratory event.

Raiders Reunion Alumni Day
The morning began with a Community and Alumni 5K Run/1-Mile Walk followed by a full day of athletic events including current Raider teams vs. Raider alums. Guests enjoyed a campus barbecue complete with a kids’ bounce house, face painting, and DJ.

50th Anniversary Gala
On Founders Day, the entire campus community celebrated the College at the 50th Anniversary Gala. The black tie optional affair included dinner and dancing to the music of The New York Players.

Envisioning the Future
Trustee Chair Jim Landrio stated: “As FM continues to grow and gain a reputation as a college of choice, it is time for us to consider how we take FM to the next level. We need to think about how we: a) serve more students; b) add to the development of our region, and c) provide a new and exciting venue for our community.”

A presentation addressed these initiatives with the announcement of “The Global Village at FM.” According to President Swanger, the vision for this new endeavor is to provide additional student housing, housing for young professionals, and a “college town” atmosphere that will attract more people to FM and the region. A field house and the creation of a contemporary living space for those more senior community members are part of the vision.

Also in the works are plans for a campus Welcome Center to provide a more visible presence for College guests along with plans for a new College Store to be located on the first floor of the Student Union.
Faculty Highlights

PHYSICS INSTRUCTOR GILBERT AYUK

Instructor Ayuk added FM to the archives of the Gordon Research Conference as he was awarded the Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship to support his participation in the 2014 GRC Physics Research & Education Conference held at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

He was awarded a Physics-Astronomy outreach grant from the New York State Section of the American Physical Society and a Bauder Fund grant from the American Association of Physics Teachers. The grants, totaling over $2,000, were awarded for projects in line with FM’s Science Division’s efforts to increase its visibility in the community.

FINE ARTS PROFESSOR & PERRELLA GALLERY DIRECTOR JOEL CHAPIN

As part of a course that focused on the art, architecture, and culture of the Andes from its earliest civilizations to the Inca Empire and eventually the Spanish conquest, Professor Chapin and 11 students embarked on a trip to Peru as part of FM’s first travel-study experience.

ENGLISH AND HUMANITIES ASSISTANT PROFESSOR STEVEN HYMOWECH, PH.D.

Assistant Professor Hymowech chaired a panel discussion for the Community College Humanities Association at the last Modern Language Association National Conference in Chicago. The panel addressed issues pertaining to the future of the Humanities and those who work within its disciplines, at both two-year and four-year institutions.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFESSOR ROBERT JONES

Professor Jones was invited to teach for Cymdeithas Madog’s weeklong Welsh language course in St. Catharines, Ontario. Named Curriculum Chair for that organization, he was responsible for reworking their curriculum and choosing other instructors from North America.

He also attended the annual conference for the North American Association of Celtic Language Teachers in Waterford, Ireland, where he was named President-Elect. He will be bringing the conference to the greater Capital District in 2016.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KARLYN LABATE

Assistant Professor Labate presented Picture Perfect at the New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences Conference; her topic was “Being Inspired as a Radiographer.”

She also spoke to the Capital District Society of Radiologic Technologists about current events in Radiology and again, presented Picture Perfect to the New Jersey Society of Radiologic Technologists where she provided tips and tricks for staying engaged as a Radiographer.

CHEMISTRY INSTRUCTOR LAURIE LAZINSKI

Instructor Lazinski attended the Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley. She gave a presentation on a General Chemistry Laboratory, a creation of hers that uses a 3-D Modeling iPad app to teach students about molecular geometry.

She was also nominated for the New York State United Teachers Leadership Institute where she was accepted as a Leadership Fellow and attended the five-day conference in Baltimore.

HISTORY INSTRUCTOR TED MAROTTA

Instructor Marotta attended and presented a paper at an International Conference of Thomas Paine Scholars, titled “Citizen of the World: The Use and Abuse of Thomas Paine,” at the People’s History Museum in Manchester, England. Marotta sat on a panel with Benjamin E. Park of University of Cambridge and Rosina Martucci of University of Salerno, to discuss Paine, Christianity and Deism.

ENGLISH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KEN VENNETTE

Assistant Professor Vennette’s poems “Spit-Shine” and “Before Words” were published in Rutherford Red Wheel Barrow #7. A publication launch was held at the Gainesville Cafe in Rutherford, NJ. Sponsoring group, The Red Wheelbarrow Poets (who were organized in the hometown of William Carlos Williams), foster and promote the writing and appreciation of poetry.
Top Rankings

College Measures created a chart for CNNMoney to help students find the top community colleges. Based on the percentage of students that graduated within three years or transferred to four-year colleges, they compiled a “success” rating for each community college in the United States. FM came in the top 5% with a 52% success rate, ahead of several of its sister SUNY community colleges.

In a Chartwells’ National Market Survey, FM’s dining operation scored 4th in the nation for highest customer satisfaction. 60.6% of students rated Chartwells excellent for overall dining, facilities, and food and beverage quality.

The Times Union named FM a Top Workplace in the Capital Region. Based on a comprehensive analysis conducted by

SUNY Chancellor’s Award Recipients

James Hinkle, Associate Professor of Media Communication, and Sharon Poling, Professor-Director of COCAL and Experiential Learning, were named 2013-2014 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence recipients.

Instituted in 1972 by the State University of New York, the Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence are System-level honors conferred to acknowledge and provide system-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence.

Athletic Awards

Several student athletes were presented awards at the annual athletic banquet. Highlights included:

- Lady Raiders Basketball Player Monae Abrams named Female Athlete of the Year
- Raiders Baseball Player Greg Ruddy named Male Athlete of the Year
- Lady Raiders Volleyball Player Emily Robinson named Female Academic Athlete of the Year
- Men’s Baseball Player Cullen Beauregard named Male Academic Athlete of the Year
- Head Coach of the Lady Raiders basketball team and the College’s Athletic Director Kevin Jones was named Conference Coach of the Year. The Lady Raiders had an outstanding season, finishing with a 21-5 record.
49th Annual Commencement

The Class of 2014 included 530 graduates. Keynote Speaker was Congressman Chris Gibson and student speaker was Casey Madsen. Casey graduated with an A.A.S. degree in Radiologic Technology. She plans to enroll at SUNY Albany to study human biology (pre-med).

Radiologic Technology Students

In addition to in-class assignments, students took part in a “Disaster and Trauma” Service Learning Project. A group of sophomore students and the MISA (Medical Imaging Student Association) Club met in Ft. Plain in October to “mud out” homes and businesses. Other students compiled emergency preparedness kits to distribute. A third group of students created a video: “Shelter in Place vs. Seek Shelter.” The group raised $500 for the Ft. Plain Disaster Relief Fund.

Later in October, students attended the New York State Society for the Radiologic Sciences meeting held in Corning, NY. They were invited to participate in the A.R.R.T. registry review sessions where they chose an innovative teaching style, providing “stations of learning” for their portion of the review.

PTK Induction

This year, 49 students were inducted into FM’s Alpha Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Inductees earned at least a 3.5 GPA after taking a minimum of twelve college credits.

Recognizing Honors Students

The Honors Program is designed to meet the needs of students who, because of high academic ability, preparation and motivation, are ready to undertake even more rigorous and challenging academic work than that offered in regular courses. These students are in the running for scholarships at FM and make themselves noticed when applying to four-year institutions as well as jobs.

SGA Awards

With over 30 clubs on FM’s campus, the Student Government Association Awards event recognizes Club Senators, Club Advisors, Distinguished Senators, Dedicated Clubs, Sic Itur Ad Astra Clubs of the Year, SGA Advisors, SGA Scholarship recipients, and the new Santa Pumpura Memorial Recognition (an award in memory of former SGA treasurer Santa Pumpura who tragically passed away this year).
Student SUNY Chancellor Award Recipients

The Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence acknowledges students who have best demonstrated, and been recognized for, the integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, which may include leadership, campus involvement, community service, creative or performing arts, athletics, and career achievement. This year’s awards were presented to Luis Martinez and Gregory Ruddy.

Perrella Gallery Showcases FM Students’ Works

The annual spring juried exhibition, featuring art created by FM students, contained 48 pieces selected from 125 submitted. The jurors were Paul Kant and Ellen Rea Panero, both regional artists. The exhibition featured a broad selection of works created in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography and multi-media works.

Smart Scholars

During their freshmen year of high school, a group of Amsterdam High students were brought together in what would become a long lasting bond. Twenty-nine students were “scouted” for the Smart Scholars Early College High School Program; a program where colleges partner with public school districts to provide students with the opportunity and preparation to accelerate the completion of their high school studies while earning transferable college credits at the same time.

The 2014 high school seniors were the program’s first cohort and each student plans on continuing their college education, transferring to their new institution with as many as 36 college credits.

Student Scholarship Awards

FROM NURSES FOR NURSES SCHOLARSHIP

In 2009, the “From Nurses for Nurses” scholarship fund was created by FM’s nursing faculty and alums. Macey Gasner received $500. She earned an A.S. in science from FM, a B.S. in psychology and biology from University at Albany, and returned to FM to graduate with a Nursing degree.

NYSETA SCHOLARSHIP

Electrical Technology student Richard Kohn was presented with the New York State Engineering Technology Association Scholarship. According to Electrical and Technology faculty, Richard is a stellar representative of both FM’s Electrical Technology program and the student body as a whole. He played an important role in the National Science Foundation project as a lab aide developing materials for the project, assisting students in the Cleanroom, and monitoring the labs.

JOHN D. VADNEY MATHEMATICS SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Rhodes was the recipient of the John D. Vadney Mathematics Scholarship Award, the largest offered to an FM student ($2500). He graduated with an Engineering Science degree and will further his education at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The award is made possible through the continued generosity of donor Lisa Queeney-Vadney.
Active Shooter Drill
Administration, faculty, staff and campus Public Safety, along with local law enforcement officers and the Greater Amsterdam Volunteer Ambulance Corps., responded to three active shooter drills on-campus after the spring 2014 semester. The drills were staged to allow members of the campus community to practice responses should a real event ever occur.
“It’s important for our employees to know how to react to a violent situation and how to be leaders to our students; this was today’s purpose. We hope we never have to put this day of practice to use,” said President Swanger.

Providing Customized Courses
Employees of AMT, Inc., completed a customized Industrial Electrical Maintenance course through the College’s Center for Employer Services. The course covered topics involved with the operation and upkeep of industrial equipment and systems. Employees became adept at working with the automated equipment in the College’s Advanced Manufacturing Lab and were able to troubleshoot typical problems they encounter in manufacturing.
Push for a Tuition-Free New York

Assemblymen Angelo Santabarbara (111th Assembly District) and James Skoufis (99th Assembly District) hosted an informational event in FM’s Theatre: “A Tuition-Free NY.” The Assemblymen are fighting for legislation that would provide free tuition to all New York students at SUNY schools (Bill number A8585).

TDAC Tours GLOBALFOUNDRIES

The Technology Division Advisory Council (TDAC), consisting of FM technology faculty, administration, alumni, and technology-related workforce leaders, toured the Manufacturing Technology Development Center at the GLOBALFOUNDRIES complex in Malta, NY as part of their annual meeting. The tour was led by GLOBALFOUNDRIES Eric Christensen, Senior Manager, Manufacturing Technology and Clay Nagel, Fab 8 AME Technical Trainer.

Weekend College Program

FM and SUNY Cobleskill partnered to provide a Bachelor of Business Administration degree; a weekend college program offering Saturday classes on both FM and SUNY Cobleskill campuses. The program is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to broaden their technical expertise and enable them to become more effective managers in technology-focused organizations.

“I am very excited about this opportunity for our graduates to pursue a baccalaureate degree on the FM campus. I feel that SUNY Cobleskill is an ideal partner for FM and a great fit for our students,” states FM Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Greg Truckenmiller.