



A Program to Help You Succeed in College

Coaches & Mentors Newsletter



SPECIAL RECOGNITION EDITION

This issue of *Coaches & Mentors News* is dedicated to special recognition for several of our students who have worked closely with us at Cape Cod Community College. Whether or not they have achieved honors in their studies, each one has achieved personal fulfillment. Many other students come to mind as worthy of recognition too, but those described here are fine examples of determination, courage, and persistence in the face of obstacles to their success. They have been successful and we feel their example can inspire others. Therefore, the staff members of *Coaches & Mentors* have nominated them for the special recognition they so richly deserve.

WE CELEBRATE THEIR SUCCESS!



"Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

- St. Francis of Assisi

Stephanie Place

Stephanie is a true Cape Codder, born at Cape Cod Hospital, raised in Marstons Mills, and still resides there with her parents and older sister.

She graduated from Barnstable High in 2006 and is enrolled in the A.S. program for Hotel Restaurant. She also wishes to obtain a Certificate in Culinary Arts before graduating with the A.S. degree. Stephanie has a true passion for baking and has been a dedicated baker of cookies for a company named Kayak Cookies for the last few years. Prior to that, she worked as a cook for Camp Good News where she also dabbled in baking.

Her "good news" is that she thoroughly enjoys helping Professor Jim Miller with all types of functions and events. She recently had the honor of being second chef at the Eleventh Annual Hospitality Gala this year.



Stephanie attributes a large part of her success, determination, and focus to the loving support of her parents and her sister and extends her thanks to them for always being there for her. When she has a break from classes and her work schedule, she enjoys visiting with her extended family in Pennsylvania, playing a variety of board games, knitting, and of course baking delicious treats and breads.

At the Evening of Excellence,

Stephanie received the **Shirley Shaughnessy Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of \$500. Congratulations, Stephanie!

Stephanie's philosophy of life: "Everyone is here for a purpose, and that purpose is to somehow make the lives of others better."

Her academic advisor Theresa Bowse says, "Stephanie is an excellent student and a pleasure to have as an advisee. She is highly focused and goal oriented, yet possesses a lightheartedness that is truly delightful. I hope to someday see Stephanie as an owner of her very own bakery. If that happens, I promise that I will be one of her first customers!"





David DeFranc

David, a resident of Rockland, was born in Boston and raised in Rockland.

He graduated from South Shore Vocational Tech in Hanover and his course of study/shop was automotive. He worked for 25 years as a certified automobile technician, mostly for GM and Chrysler companies, fixing engines and solving drivability problems.

In December 2003, David suffered a major accident at work which became a life-changing event. While working on an engine, he fractured bones in his hand and wrist which led to constant pain. For medical reasons he was unable to return to normal duties in his automotive job.

Deciding to switch careers, he enrolled at CCCC in the Environmental Technology program and graduated this year with an Associate in Science degree. He has been accepted at Curry College where he will pursue his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies. He is very happy that all of his 67 credits from CCCC will transfer to Curry, making it possible for him to achieve his B.S. in less than two years.

During his last semester at CCCC he was hired by Triumvirate Environmental as an Environmental Chemist. He absolutely loves his job, and sees a lot of opportunity for advancement.

On his three years at CCCC, he says, "The professors in the Environmental Technology Program go above and beyond to help prepare you for a career." He especially enjoyed classes with Professors Catherine Etter, Gil Newton, and Ray Jack. He also credits Coaches & Mentors for always being there for him, and fondly remembers Maggie Hiltzik's tutoring in Elementary Algebra the first semester he was here.

At the Evening of Excellence, David received the **George T. Curley Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000. Congratulations, David!

David's praise for CCCC: "I highly recommend 4Cs to everyone! It's beyond all expectations!"

His advisor, Carol Dubay, says, "I never had any doubt about David reaching his goals. He is a hard-working, conscientious person who turned an unfortunate accident into an opportunity for growth. David is a true professional, and I expect to hear a lot more about him as he moves upward and onward in his career."

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence...Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

- Calvin Coolidge



Elizabeth Silvia

Elizabeth was born in Leominster and has lived in Missouri, Wyoming, Plymouth, and Wellfleet. She attended Plymouth South High and Cape Cod Tech in the field of cosmetology.

In her junior year of high school she got her nail tech license and before graduation she received her cosmetology license. Now she's attending CCCC, working toward her Associate degree in Business and also enrolled in the Massage Therapy Program here. In the fall she plans to attend Utah College of Massage Therapy in Salt Lake City. She has had some salon jobs but feels that massage therapy is a more fulfilling goal.



She is very close to her family and has one brother and one sister. Her dad is a minister, her mom is a school teacher, her brother is a children's pastor and her sister is a traveling violinist who hopes to become a psychologist. She explains, "Our family

is founded on love for each other and God, so even though we are all going our separate ways we will always be together at heart."

Elizabeth is a singer. "One of the talents God has given me is that of song," she says. "I'm a soprano and I love to sing. I was taking voice lessons for years but had to give it up for the present due to the busyness of college."

For fun, she loves to scrapbook. "I could do it all day. I call it my anti-drug. Someday I hope to have my own place with a salon in front and a scrapbooking shop in back."

Elizabeth's favorite quote: "My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness...for when I am weak, then I am strong." —2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

Her tutor/mentor Patricia Childs says, "Elizabeth has truly transformed before my very eyes this semester and it has been an honor as well as a pleasure to work with her. Through her hard work and determination she has excelled in her studies and has proven that hard work really does pay off."

"I would like to extend my best wishes to Elizabeth on the start of her new journey in Salt Lake City and I can state with confidence that she will certainly succeed with her education and chosen career."



**"Wonder is the beginning of wisdom."
- Greek proverb**

Tarson Franklin

Tarson Franklin was born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana and moved to Cape Cod in 1990. Then in 2000 she relocated to Warner Robins, Georgia before returning to the Cape. Then she decided to get her G.E.D. and further her education.



"With the help of Joan Kerrigan, I succeeded in getting my G.E.D. and finally walked across the stage," she says. "It was one of my proudest accomplishments." She had passed an obstacle that had

been blocking her from improving her education and having a career.

Tarson is now at CCCC studying to become an R.N., a registered nurse. She has been in the medical field for about 12 years as a Certified Nursing Assistant and does private duty nursing instead of working in a facility. "This gives me time to focus on my studies and try to be the best nurse to ever come out of the program," she says.

Her motivation for success goes back to her late grandmother Nettie Roundtree who was very supportive about her return to school. "Nettie still motivates me today to keep going even when I think I am overwhelmed with life at home, work and school."

She is also grateful to the rest of her family for being there for her. That includes her mother Beverly Young, her husband Maurice, and her four children Verdareon, Verlancia, Christopher, and Quantez. To all of them, she says, "Thank you all so much for being the ears and eyes to help me on my quest to accomplish the one thing I preach to you all constantly; getting an education to better yourself."

An important point she wants to pass on to others is this: "I know there are a lot of other people like me who did not get a high school diploma and think it's too late to go back, but **it's never too late to go back and continue with your education.**"

Her advisor Kyle Durborow comments: "I am very impressed with Tarson's determination and "resilience." She has had a number of challenges since she started at the college but she is committed to her education and is persevering. This is where her spirit prevails...she refuses to be stopped!!! AND she continues to laugh. As she says, 'You have to laugh; what else can you do? These are the things we all go through in life and **you can't give up.**'

I am very glad to have had the opportunity to work with Tarson; she's an inspirational individual!!!!"



Kristen Burgess

Kristen is one of Cape Cod Community College's finest. She was born on the South Shore and moved to the Cape when she was 4 years old. She currently lives in Dennis with her 4 year old daughter, Kylee.



She is a graduate of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School and enrolled in our Associate in Arts program with a concentration in Business. Recently, she received the Wilkins' Family Non-Commencement Schol-

arship which was awarded at the 2008 Evening of Excellence in May. One of Kristen's long term goals is to pursue her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

In addition to her academics, she was selected and recommended by her Career Counselor, Theresa Bowse, to serve as a work/study student for both the Coaches & Mentors and the Diploma Plus programs. Her work/study position is supervised by Patty Scialdone, Program Assistant for Coaches & Mentors. This position provides Kristen with an excellent business learning experience and also assists both programs tremendously with their workloads.

Outside of her life at CCCC, Kristen's busy schedule consists of working several hours for Hearth 'n Kettle as well as Piccadilly Deli, all while raising her 4 year old daughter. Between school, work, and family responsibilities, Kristen has very little free time. When she does find some down time, she enjoys going to the beach with her daughter and traveling.

Kristen's philosophy of life: "Take one day at a time. Things could be a lot worse...just keep going and everything will work out in the end."

Her Career Counselor Theresa Bowse comments: "Kristen has great strength of character. She leads a very busy lifestyle, yet manages very nicely to maintain her personal values and a strong work ethic. Her hard work and dedication will ultimately provide her with the bright future that she deserves. It has been my pleasure to provide her with career guidance and support."



"Never mistake knowledge for wisdom.

One helps you make a living,
the other helps you make a life."

- Sandra Carey



Bianca DeGrandis

Bianca was born and raised in the West Hartford, Connecticut area where she went to Conard High School. She now lives in Eastham where she enjoys reading and going swimming.

She is a bicycling enthusiast and cycles the Cape Cod Rail Trail every day. She feels invigorated by cycling and looks forward to it with great enthusiasm.

Bianca says, "I always have a positive frame of mind." She is not exaggerating when she says this. Balancing her life with college studies, exercise, family and friendship gives her plenty to do and provides many opportunities to remain positive no matter what is going on around her.

She has worked in nursing homes as an activity assistant and has also worked in hotels and motels on Cape Cod.

Bianca does not boast about her travel adventures, but if you get her started you may learn about her trips to Costa Rica, South America, and Spain. In her English classes she has written fascinating essays about her travels.

Philosophy of Life: "Always keep a positive frame of mind."

Tom O'Connell, her tutor/mentor, reports: "Bianca is a role model for how to apply oneself to the task at hand. She is so well motivated, prepares thoroughly for classes, expresses herself clearly, and radiates her upbeat attitude. She is prompt and very reliable. I'm sure that she will achieve her goals and I know she will be an asset to any organization that is fortunate enough to have her on board."

Ron Normand

Ron was born and raised in Marion, Massachusetts, and now resides in Sandwich. He went to Old Rochester Regional High School.

In North Carolina during 1979-1980 he studied at Warren Wilson College, a liberal arts college. He says, "I worked for the college to pay for my room and board."

For 19 years he worked for a marina where he became foreman. Also, he worked part time at UPS, and later with a local construction company in Sandwich. Injured at UPS in 2002, he went through five surgeries in five years.

His family is a mixture of French and Irish, he has three sisters, and he is engaged to his longtime fiancé. He enjoys working outside and cooking.



Ron says, "My favorite fun is following all Boston sports."

Ron's Philosophy of Life: "Through all setbacks, never give up."

Judith Andersen, his tutor/mentor, says, "Ron is a returning adult student who came with strong basic arithmetic skills, but had no experience with algebra. He has a very positive, upbeat attitude and is one of the few math students who actually reads his math book. He always comes to sessions well prepared, studies the book carefully, completes the exercises, and actually does far more homework than is required. He asks excellent questions and learns quickly. He is very motivated and I'm confident that he will accomplish his objectives."



"The person who wins may have been counted out several times, but didn't hear the referee."

- Source Unknown



"Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you."

- Lin Yutang



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