



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 during their time 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!



"The strongest of all warriors are these two - time and patience."

-Leo Tolstoy



Joe Pushkin-Rood

Joe was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from St. John's University with his A.S. in Business Administration. He also earned an R.N. from St. Vincent's Hospital. During the late 80's and



early 90's Joe worked as the Assistant Head Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at St. Vincent's Hospital. He also worked as a nurse at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

He moved to the Cape in 1995 and lives in North Truro with his partner of 31 years. He has been employed at Seashore Point, which is a long term rehabilitation facility in Provincetown. In 2008, Joe started considering some type of career change, and decided to pursue a degree at Cape Cod Community College. Initially, he planned on obtaining a Certificate in Medical Office Administration, but as he went through the program he decided to pursue his Associate Degree instead. Joe graduated in May with his A.S in Information Technology in Medical Office Administration. He also recently received his Certification as a Medical Coder from the American Academy of Professional Coders. Congratulations Joe!

When he is not studying or working at Seashore Point Joe enjoys his leisure time. He loves to cook, and watch movies. He also enjoys reading, spending time with friends, and just hanging out.

Joe's motto in life is "stay focused." His philosophy throughout life has been set goals and stayed focused on achieving them. This has paid off for him, and he explained "I came back to Cape Cod Community College to strengthen my job skills and find a new career. I stayed focused, achieved my goals, and graduated in May".

Joe is very pleased with his experience at 4C's. He said the decision to pursue his Associate degree was based on all the positive things that he encountered here. To quote Joe, "My experience at 4C's was invaluable... I could not have moved on in my life if not for what I learned here. The courses... the people... the support programs... the whole package! I can't say enough about how great the experience was for me."

The especially happy ending for Joe is that he has been hired to work full time at Outer Cape Health Services in Wellfleet. His official job title is Medical Billing Specialist, but with his extensive medical training and background, his duties and responsibilities will be expanded to utilize his professional expertise.

Quote from Advisor Kyle Durborow:

"I met Joe when he started at 4 C's and it has been pleasure to witness his commitment and success. He was determined to achieve his goals, and he wisely took advantage of all the support and resources we offer adults who want to learn new job skills. Congratulations Joe... I wish you the best at Outer Cape Health Services!"



Melinda Tanon

What do you get when you combine a mother of four, the oldest of four in the family, someone who is fluent in Spanish and English and understands Portuguese, views not fitting in the demographic boxes provided by the US census an opportunity to better herself? You get Melinda Tanon. As if having being a single parent of four and being a full time student isn't enough, she just happens to earn excellent grades.

Melinda moved from Paterson, New Jersey to Boston when she was 3 and to Cape Cod when she was 11, as her mother wanted Melinda and her two brothers and one sister to have a better life. Both of Melinda's parents were from Puerto Rico, Spanish is her first language. Melinda attended Dennis-Yarmouth High School and Cape Tech, where she studied cosmetology. She met Gus Mills, who has since retired from the GED Program, and received her GED in 1998 from courses she took at our own Hyannis Center.

She worked many jobs until September of 2003 when she started to work at a day care center. There she developed a love for working with children and learned enough Portuguese from the children to have an understanding of it. Melinda took courses in early childhood and in the summer of 2009 decided it was time for her to begin her road to a Bachelor's and maybe even a Master's degree in either Early Childhood or Special Needs Education. The last two semesters she has worked at Hyannis East Charter School in the Reading Tutorial Program.

Melinda is all smiles whenever she talks about her children, Yensi (13), Shaylin (12), Jamilla (10), and Keyon (8). They all attend Barnstable schools.

In her spare time she enjoys watching the kids, braiding hair and writing.

Melinda's favorite quote:

"One hundred years from now no one will remember how much money I had in the bank, what kind of car I drove, or what kind of job I had. But I will be remembered as someone special because I made a difference in the life of a child."



Bruno Luna

Although he may come across as a shy student, that is hardly the case with Bruno Luna. Bruno has a quick smile and is pleased to be at Cape Cod Community College. Bruno was born on Cape Cod and retains a rare dual citizenship in the United State and Brazil. He has siblings in both Brazil and Mexico, but lives in Marstons Mills with his parents. He attended Cape Cod Regional Technical High School and Barnstable High School graduating in 2008. At Cape Tech he studied mechanics. After graduation from high school, Bruno worked for a year doing landscape and became a supervisor. In the summer of 2009, he decided it was time to go to college.

Although high school was not his favorite place to be, he did enjoy playing football. College seems to be a much better fit for him. He is studying business and also taking environmental courses. One of his goals is to return to Brazil to purchase property. Meanwhile, he is studying here, at Cape Cod Community College. Currently, his favorite class is Marketing, taught by Professor Michael Bejtlich. He also enjoys the English class he has taken with Professor Marie Spadaro.

Quote from Bruno: "Things happen when they happen."

Quote from Advisor Lois André:

"I enjoy working with Bruno as he explores the opportunities afforded by dual citizenship."



Meagan Hudon

Meagan Hudon of Wareham is an expert hairdresser who is enrolled here in accounting. Her career plans include becoming banking auditor... watch out Goldman Sachs. While working in a bank, she had the experiences of going through an internal audit. The audit process, which was frightening to most, did not scare Meagan at all and at that time, she decided she wanted to be a banking auditor.

Our New Bedford native graduated from New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School with a degree in cosmetology and obtained her hairdressing license at age 18. She is working in a salon, but has a real passion for banking as she worked in banking from 2005-2008.

Meagan lives in Wareham with her mother and father. She has a younger sister, who has recently graduated from WPI. Her current reading includes Vampire Diaries and Trueblood series. In addition to being a great stylist she relaxes by crocheting and cross stitching.

Meagan will complete her Associate's degree and is planning to attend Bridgewater State College to pursue her Business degree.

Meagan Philosophy of Life: "Live life to the fullest as you never know when it is your time to go."

Quote from Advisor Theresa Bowse: "Megan has limitless energy and a passion for all that she does. She is and will continue to be one of our great student success stories."



Shawn Sullivan

Shawn was born and raised in Somerville, Mass. He grew up in a very large family of nine siblings, which included 6 sisters and 2 brothers. He attended Somerville Trade High School where he focused his studies in Graphic Arts.

His interest in graphics continued for many years throughout his work. Shawn's previous employment included 12 years as Pressroom Manager for a graphics company located in Plymouth and 2 years working as a Printing Press Instructor. To expand further on his technical interest and skills, Shawn enrolled at Cape Cod Community College in the Spring of 2010 and is currently taking classes towards his Associate in Science degree in Information Technology.

Shawn currently lives in Sandwich with his wife and three daughters, ages 20, 18, and 12. When he has some free time, he enjoys playing golf, exercising, going to the beach, and watching his youngest daughter dance. He also has a talent for landscaping his own home. Most importantly, he enjoys spending time with his children and being actively involved and "present" in their lives.

Shawn's Philosophy of Life: "Be grateful for each new day and the gifts that it brings... that's why they call it the present."

Quote from Advisor Lois André: "Shawn is a pleasure to work with. After getting past the first semester jitters, he is really doing well and moving ahead with his studies. He is a natural trainer."



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