Cape Cod Community College held its 44th Commencement this (last) evening, awarding degrees and certificates to 498 individuals, one of the largest classes in its history. College President Kathleen Schatzberg welcomed fellow President Jackie Jenkins-Scott of Wheelock College as Commencement Speaker, who challenged the graduating class to persevere, work hard to overcome the inevitable obstacles of life, and to be a positive agent for change.

The College awarded an honorary degree to Carol Chicchetto, Director of Outreach and Education for The Clothesline Project since 1993. The Project, a visual display of shirts with graphic messages and illustrations portraying the horror and the healing surrounding domestic violence, has reached over 500 communities nationwide and is now in several foreign countries.

Alumna of the Year Diane Kovanda of Cotuit was brought to the stage and honored with a citation from the Board of Trustees. She was just six years old when she and her mother fled Russian-occupied Prague. After graduating from CCCC in 1981, she earned a Masters in Education at Cambridge College and today is a well-know yoga professional and stress management counselor at Complete Wellness in Cotuit, and a volunteer for Big Sisters of Cape Cod.

The night before Commencement, in Evening of Excellence ceremonies, the College’s Educational Foundation awarded a record $219,000 in scholarship aid to 113 current and incoming students, and 56 graduating students. Awards ranging from $250 to $20,000 were made based on academic excellence, personal accomplishments, and financial need.

Natural Sciences Professor Jim Shaw received both the Phi Theta Kappa Golden Apple award, voted by the College’s honor society members, and the College’s Excellence In Teaching Award, voted each year by members of the faculty to recognize one among them who has shown outstanding commitment to his/her students, and excellence in teaching within the academic discipline. Prof Shaw teaches physics at the College.

Two faculty members, each with more than 30 years of service to the College, were made Emeritus members of the faculty. Prof. of Natural Sciences and Life Fitness, George Kahler, and; Prof. of Nursing and long-time Chairperson of the Dept. of Nursing and Allied Health, Luise Speakman, were honored by the College’s Board of Trustees.

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