

The Foundation Catalyst

News from the HCC Foundation, Alumni and Friends

*Like our energizing new name?
See page 2 for the scoop.*

A Leader in the Making

When Guatemalan STEM student Luis Mesias found an opportunity to attend college at HCC, he jumped at the chance. Born and raised in Guatemala City, Luis excelled in academics during high school, learning English and focusing on programming and mathematics.

"As a kid, I was always interested in Legos and robotics," said Luis. "I wanted to invent things."

With SAT scores that qualified him for the HCC Honors Institute, Luis dove into electrical engineering courses and quickly plugged into a variety of activities related to his interests.

To say that Luis is an involved student would be an understatement. International Club, Student Government Association, Engineering Club, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Phi Beta Lambda Business Club, National Society of Collegiate Schools, and an RA position at Hawks Landing are only some of the leadership roles he fills.

"I saw how much I could do here," he said. "It wasn't the same back home. I decided to get involved right away because it's a great way to immerse with the culture and make friends."

Luis has attended conferences and presented on a national level, receiving the Educational Innovation for Tomorrow Award at the National Collegiate Honors Conference (NCHC) for a virtual reality application that helps trace and graph vectors in 3D. Luis will demo this product in Atlanta at the International NCHC.

As president of the Engineering Club, he pioneered a service project to create a computer lab for a school in Guatemala. "We got corporate sponsors and used club money to buy computer parts, which we assembled into computers to donate to this school," he said. "It's going to make a tremendous difference for these students."

His level of involvement and leadership set him apart, and Luis was recently selected and sworn in as the first Student Liaison to the HCC Board of Trustees—a role and responsibility that humbles him.

"I want to serve my fellow students and help them the way I was helped when I started here," he said. "I want to be a voice for all HCC students." During his one-year term, Luis hopes to create standards and a strong start to this new position, so the Board of Trustees Student Liaison role can continue to grow and evolve.

"I'll graduate in spring 2018. I want to attend MIT, Stanford, Georgia Tech, UF or USF," said Luis. "I will pursue a Master's degree in prosthetics or electronics."

Luis's legacy of leadership at HCC will forge ground for future Student Board Liaisons, as well as guide his own future career aspirations.



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Executive Director's Message



"This Scholarship is a true blessing. It will help me to finish my dream of becoming a Respiratory Therapist. I am a single mother of five children and it has really been a financial struggle with my decision to go back to school full time. Without this scholarship, my desire to make a better future for my family would not be possible." – Sarah Assidy

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2017. As our Foundation matures and the newsletter begins to take shape our staff realized that we could do more than just "imagine the possibilities;" we can be a catalyst for social engagement. We decided that a more uplifting and fitting name for the newsletter is *The Foundation Catalyst*. Whether you live near or far, *The Foundation Catalyst* invites you to get a firsthand glimpse into HCC and join us as we celebrate student successes, appreciate the impact of a donor's contribution of time or monetary support, or recognize a newly formed vital community partnership, just to name a few. It will also provide you with opportunities to become involved with the HCC community. We hope you enjoy this issue, and please feel free to contact me at sshear2@hccfl.edu or (813) 253-7014 with any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Shear" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen C. Shear
Executive Director

Are you looking for a meaningful way to make a lasting impact?

For individuals age 70 ½ or older, the IRA Charitable Rollover is a tax-effective way to support Hillsborough Community College, its students and programs. If you are required to make annual withdrawals from an IRA account, these otherwise taxable distributions can satisfy your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and exclude these funds from your taxable income.

Each year, you (and your spouse) can transfer as much as \$100,000 to Hillsborough Community College Foundation for a purpose that you choose. If you qualify, you are able to make a direct transfer from your IRA to Hillsborough Community College Foundation and avoid income tax on this transfer.

What are the benefits?

- Transfer tax-free gifts from your IRA directly to Hillsborough Community College
- Can be applied toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
- Beneficial for individuals who do not itemize deductions on their income tax
- Withdrawals not subject to annual charitable deduction limitations
- IRA gifts may be used to satisfy multi-year campaign or gift pledges
- Can be used to create an endowed scholarship or other permanent fund

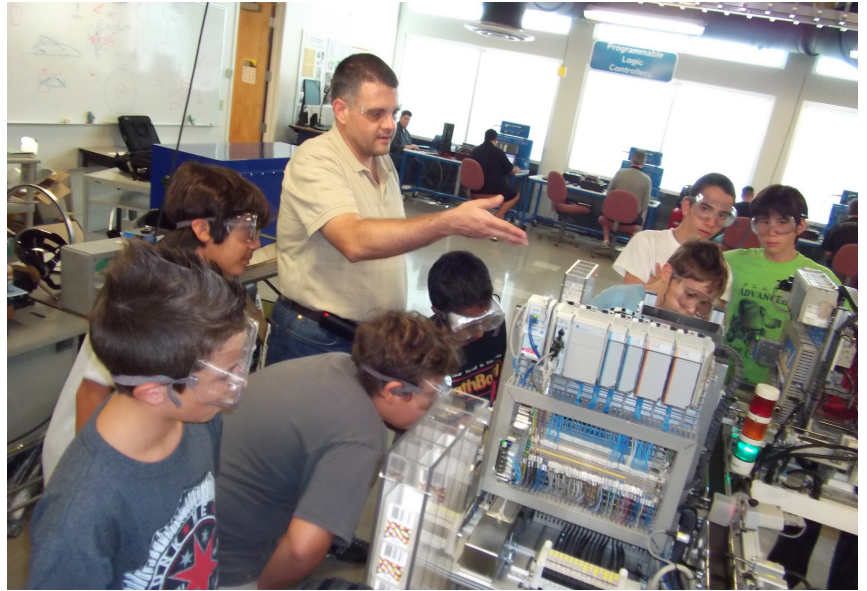
To initiate the transfer to the Hillsborough Community College Foundation, contact your IRA administrator and then contact Denise Godfrey at the Hillsborough Community College Foundation at (813) 253-7165 to designate your gift and its structure.

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HCC Responds to the Needs of our Community

Manufacturing, though once a cornerstone of the American economy, has taken a backseat to other professions in recent years. The emphasis on four-year college degrees for post-secondary education caused a decline in young people seeking a career in manufacturing, leading to a significant need for new blood to take over jobs at every level of the industry.

David Stailey, president of Bay Area Manufacturing Association (BAMA) says there is a great need for technical/engineering support, and for promoting excellence and achievement in vocational training. The good news, he says, is there are many high-paying jobs available in



manufacturing with a two-year technical and/or Associate's degree. "What we're working on is coming up with a strategy to reach out to the younger generation, get them excited and involved in innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and manufacturing-related fields."

In response to this community need, HCC has partnered with For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) and brings elementary, middle and high school students on campus to learn robotics by participating in leagues and attending summer camps. The HCC Foundation supports these programs by recruiting sponsors to provide grants to cover team expenses, bringing more students opportunities to compete. The Foundation, through sponsorships, also funds scholarships for students to attend HCC Robotics Summer Camps.

Deshjuana Bagley, part-time technician at the HCC Brandon Campus and owner of Tech PlayZone, is a champion of STEM development for students from kindergarten through high school.

"All sorts of industries will be using robotics in the future, and there will be great salaries for those engineers and technicians," said Deshjuana. "We want as many kids as possible to have the opportunities to explore these jobs and potentially be trained and marketable."

Dr. Alex Anzalone, dean of AS and technical programs at the HCC Brandon Campus, often witnesses the successes resulting from robotics attracting more students—and more women—to HCC's STEM programs, such as engineering technology.

An AS degree in engineering technology can lead directly to a lucrative technician job or transfer to a Bachelor's degree program. Students gain hands-on experience with high-tech equipment that teaches them the techniques to succeed in advanced manufacturing careers.

"Robotics in middle and high school whets their appetites, and by the time students get to HCC they can pursue their passions," said Dr. Anzalone. "We are creating pathways to a successful future."

For more information about supporting HCC's Engineering and Manufacturing Programs, please contact Lee Lowry at the Hillsborough Community College Foundation at (813) 253-7165.

Donor Spotlight:

An Interview with Dr. Luz Lono and Jim DeMauro

Former HCC Ybor City Campus faculty member Dr. Luz Lono and her husband Jim DeMauro may be retired, but their lives are busier now than ever. Their deep involvement with Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. and continued support of HCC students through HCC Foundation endowed scholarships are just a part of their involvement in Tampa's life and culture. Learn more about this special couple that gives back so much to their beloved community.

Please share your background and details of your time at HCC.

LUZ: I am originally from Lima, Peru, where I earned my Bachelor's degree. Then I came to the U.S. to earn a Master's degree at Columbia University. I went back to Lima to work as a language teacher, and returned to the U.S. to earn a Ph.D. in applied linguistics at NYU. I worked in New York City and moved to Tampa in 1977. I began teaching at the USF English Language Center. In 1988 I began teaching at the HCC Ybor City Campus, where I stayed for 24 years teaching English to non-native speakers through the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program. This program is for students who need to improve their English language skills to pursue academics at a higher level. I retired in 2012.

What were some of the high points of your teaching experience at HCC?

LUZ: I can't get away from this place—it's my second home. Being a Latina in Ybor City has been such a gift and I cherish the relationships I formed here. We started the Hispanic Heritage Festival at HCC in 1989, and it has grown each year since and expanded to other campuses. My students became very involved in festival events like the Salvador Dali Presentation, Poetry Recital, and Food Festival. These are opportunities for them to travel the world without spending a penny.

Over the years, connecting with my students and sharing experiences was so valuable and rewarding. Every student has a story to tell. Many of them went on to accomplish some amazing things as they continued their educations. I learned from them as much as they learned from me.

Jim, how did you and Luz meet?

JIM: For years I worked as a freelance photographer and photographed Tampa Hispanic Heritage events. I met Luz while working at these events—and eventually I asked her out on a date. We married in 2013.



Do you have any hobbies?

JIM: Beyond our community involvement, Luz and I love to travel. I have four children and six grandchildren. Luz jokes that she has inherited a large family! We go visit them as often as we can. We also travel to Peru to visit Luz's family during the holidays.

LUZ: I've discovered more in Peru with Jim than I ever did before. Our honeymoon was in Machu Picchu.

JIM: The ancient streets made of stone are absolutely wonderful. We've also visited archaeological ruins along the coast.

Please tell me about your endowed scholarships at HCC.

LUZ: In 2012 we created scholarships for EAP students. At HCC, your gift has tremendous value, because you don't have to spend as much per student, but it can make a lifelong difference for them.

Tell me why you think giving to the HCC Foundation makes such a difference.

LUZ: I was able to come to the U.S. and study because of generous scholarships so I know what a difference it makes to have that support. And HCC students sometimes don't get as much support as students at four-year colleges.

JIM: It's the right thing to do. Giving forward is so important. Gifts to education—especially to HCC students—can make a huge impact, with ripple effects into the future.

Alumni Connections



Brandon Chamber Coffee Club

The HCC Brandon Campus and HCC Alumni hosted the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce monthly Coffee Club gathering on September 26th. It was a wonderful turnout and about half of the attendees were alumni. Recently graduated alumnus Deighton Saint-Cyr commented that a professor once told him “if you get an invitation to something, always say yes because you never know where that will lead.” That is great advice from which we can all benefit.

A big thank you to Dr. Nancee Sorenson, HCC Brandon Campus President, and The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce. We encourage our alumni to get involved with their local chambers. Whether you are just starting your career or are a seasoned professional, engaging with your local community is a surefire way to build contacts and make new friends.



FOUNDATION EVENTS

Nearly 80 retired HCC faculty and staff enjoyed a very festive gathering at the HCC Foundation’s inaugural “Reconnect Reception” held on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club. It was such a treat to hear faculty and staff share stories spanning our entire 49 years of existence. Although many have been retired for a while, one thing is evident; their mutual passion for the College and student success remains at the forefront of their lives.

Stay tuned as we are planning other fun events in 2018 and we would love to connect with all our HCC retirees.

If you are an HCC retiree who is interested in staying in touch with the College, but is not currently receiving communications from the Foundation, contact Ann Menchen, Annual Fund and Alumni Relations Manager, at (813) 253-7114 or amenchen@hccfl.edu



How will you remember HCC?

We encourage our supporters to consider leaving a legacy at HCC through a bequest or other planned gift. If you have been so generous as to include a bequest to HCC as part of your estate plan, please let us know so we can recognize you and your family for your generosity.

There are many ways for those at every level of income to help HCC students. Friends of HCC can make a bequest in their will or revocable trust, designate the HCC Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement account, and name the HCC Foundation as a beneficiary of their life insurance policy. Contact Denise Godfrey at (813)253-7165 or dgodfrey3@hccfl.edu for more information.



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HCC Gives Back to Puerto Rico

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the Foundation, with the support of all five campuses, led a college-wide collection of supplies and food items to help our loved ones and friends in Puerto Rico. The College collected hundreds of pounds of nonperishable food items and much needed supplies for the nonprofit, Course of Action PR. Course of Action PR delivered the items directly to those most in need, especially those living in the interior of the island.



Connect with Us!

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